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THE

SOPHA:

A

MORAL TALE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

Monsieur CREBILLON.

A NEW EDITION.

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THE

C O N T E N T S

THE SOPHA:

A MORAL TALE.

PART II.

CHAP. XII.

Much the ſame as the foregoing.

THOUGH the diſagreeable adventure that had happened to Zulina, gave her a great deal of mortification, it did not deprive her of that preſence of mind which was neceſſary in ſo vexatious an accident.—She congratulated Mazulhim; and if ſhe ſeemed to have any thing to complain of, it was on a ſcore quite different from that

which had filled her with ſo much reſentment; and for the ſake of her own reputation, ſhe ſcrupled not to do him an honour, which it is certain he was far from deſerving.

I knew not whether it was with an intention to mortify her ſtill more, or that contrary to his cuſtom, he was willing to do himſelf juſtice; but to which ſoever of theſe motives it was, he pretended not to believe a word which ſhe ſaid.—"There "are," cried he, with an affected tone, "ſome very unhappy days.—Days, that if "one could foreſee, one would die rather "than wait for."

Zulica agreed, that there were ſome days whoſe beginnings promiſed little happineſs, yet in the end, they afforded more to rejoice at, than to lament. "I proteſt to "you," ſaid ſhe, looking on him with a tenderneſs which was far diſtant from her heart, "that I have a thouſand times ima-"gined, that all the fine things you have

"ſaid

"ſaid on the ſubject of my beauty were "not ſincere; or that the charms you "ſeemed to admire moſt in me, were ef-"faced by ſome defects, which not expect-"ing to have found, were the more ſhock-"ing: but you have now made all theſe "apprehenſions vaniſh; and I am per-"fectly convinced, I am as happy as I "could have wiſhed."

"Ah, Zulica!" cried the unmerciful Mazulhim, "your fears have been but too "well grounded!—I am ſenſible of what "I owe to your favours, but they have "not blinded me; and the more generous "I find you, the more you increaſe my "remorſe." "What extravagance is "this?" replied ſhe, "carry it no far-"ther, I beſeech you; it is a notion alto-"gether chimerical.—Nothing can be "more unjuſt."

In ſpeaking theſe words, ſhe walked ſlowly about the chamber, endeavouring with all her art, to conceal the ſecret mor-

tification that preyed on her mind. Both parties were indeed sufficiently perplexed. Without love, without desire, without even esteem for each other, and condemned by their mutual imprudence, and the appointment they had made, to pass together in that private recess, the remainder of a day which seemed to promise satisfaction to neither of them. Zulica made many reflections on the deception of characters; and what gave her the most disquiet, (for I saw into her soul) was the impossibility there appeared of being revenged on Mazulhim. If I should report what has passed between us, said she to herself, who will believe me? Or, if I should find credit, there is so general a prepossession in his favour, that the blame would fall wholly upon me.—Whatever I shall say, it will be impossible for me to find credit with the world.

While she was taken up with these disturbed meditations, Mazulhim seemed to be entirely free from thought, quite indo-

lent, and walked about the room with a careleſs and negligent air, ſometimes humming a tune, and at others looking on Zulica with an unmeaning ſmile.

"You are very grave," ſaid he to her at laſt, "and ſeem to be buried in thought!" "Do you wonder I ſhould be ſo," anſwered ſhe, with a prudiſh tone? "Can you "imagine, that to be with a man, as I am "with you, is not a thing very alarming "to a woman of reputation?" "No," replied he, coldly, "for I believe the wo-"men of reputation are very much accuſ-"tomed to ſuch kinds of rendezvous." "It "ſeems however," ſaid ſhe, "that you "are ignorant of what it coſts them, and "the ſevere combats they muſt ſuffer with-"in themſelves before they can be brought "to conſent to them." "What you ſay "on that ſcore is probable enough," anſwered he. "By the haſte you make, and "the manner in which you abridge thoſe

"inward conflicts, one may imagine in-
"deed, that they are cruelly fatiguing."
"How ungenerous is such an interpre-
"tation of our sexe's tenderness!" cried
she—"Can you imagine, that to talk in
"this manner, is any proof of your wit?
"—Are you ignorant, that such common-
"place raillery is rather the discourse of a
"cox-comb, or a fop, than a man of sense?"
"I believe it not the less for that," re-
plied he, "you would yet be convinced of
"the folly of it," resumed she, "if you
"knew with how great a reluctance my
"virtue surrendered to my love, and what
"struggles I endured before I consented to
"this meeting." "What!" cried he,
"sure you have been in a dream——this
"would be an insult to me. I had flat-
"tered myself with quite other things;
"and I should be sorry to find I was de-
"ceived in what gave me so much satis-
"faction, without your losing any part of
"my esteem.—But," continued he mali-
ciously,

ciously, "do me the favour to tell me, if "Zadis too coſt you all theſe pains and "conflicts you ſpeak of?" "What do "you mean?" ſaid ſhe coldly; "what of "that Zadis?" "Oh! I aſk your par-"don," replied he, with a raillying ac-cent, "I could have ſworn you had known "him."

"Yes;" ſaid ſhe, "I have ſeen him—"I know him in common with the reſt of "the world." "I believe," reſumed Ma-zulhim, "as little known as he is to you, "he would be very much diſturbed to be "told you are here;—I am ſtrangely de-"ceived if the favours you are ſo good as "to allow to me, would not give him a good "deal of pain.——Be unreſerved," conti-nued he, ſhrugging up his ſhoulders, "I "hate conſtraint and diſſimulation.—Za-"dis pleaſed you before I had the happi-"neſs of pleaſing you; and I am very well "aſſured you have been actually together."

"Was ever the like heard?" cried Zulica; "indeed, Mazulhim, this raillery is "very insipid, and there is nothing in it "agreeable." "Even," continued he, not regarding what she said, "if you are in-"constant to him, he is still more happy "than he deserves. For a man, such as "Zadis, is little made to be beloved; and "I have always been surprized, that a lady "of so much sprightliness and gaiety, "should make choice of a lover who seems "neither to have any warmth of inclina-"tion, nor words to express it." "You "deceive yourself, Mazulhim," replied she resolutely, "Zadis is all that is tender;— "I have sacrificed him to you, it would be "needless to tell you to the contrary; but "I very much fear you will soon give me "reason to repent of it."

"You have been fickle," said he, "and I "confess I have been inconstant; but the "less we have hitherto been capable of a "serious attachment, the greater will be

"our

"our mutual glory to fix at last on each "other."

With these words he led her towards me, but with an air, which visibly denoted that mere gallantry directed his motions. "It "must be owned you are very handsome," said he; "and if it were not for the too "great reservedness, which even with me "you cannot wholly throw off, I know "no woman that could better perfect a "lover's happiness."

"I am naturally reserved," answered she; "but nevertheless, you, methinks, "have little reason to reproach me with it."

"You make me happy without doubt," resumed he; "but without desire yourself, "you give not a sufficient return to that "which you inspire——I observe a con-"straint in all your motions——You fear "to yield too far——You abandon not your-"self to these transports which the affair "between us demands; and in fine, I am

"apt to ſuſpect you are but little ſenſible
"of their impreſſions."

While Mazulhim ſpoke in this manner to Zulica, he held one of her hands between his, with an air the moſt paſſionate he could aſſume——He then proceeded—"Though "the exceſs of your charms has already had "a ſtrange effect upon me, I cannot re"fuſe myſelf the pleaſure of admiring them "over again—Were I even to periſh, theſe "beauties muſt not longer be hid from "me——Gods!" cried he, in a kind of rapture, "make me, if it be poſſible, wor"thy of my good fortune."

Whatever had been ſaid of the inſenſibility of Zulica, the admiration of her that Mazulhim now expreſſed—the eagerneſs of his tranſports, and the endeavours he made, to oblige her to ſhare in them, gave her ſome emotions, and her eyes ſparkled with an uncounterfeited pleaſure. She teſtified her feelings by a thouſand endearing marks. Yet, ſtill remembering the little

depen-

dependence she could have on him, and apprehending the consequences of that wild and tumultuous extasy he was now in——a "Ah! Mazulhim!" cried she, take care "you do not over-love me!" He made no reply to these words, but could not forbear smiling at the terrors she testified, as indeed he had reason; for she soon found how small a foundation there was for them, and that she was much less beloved than she had feared to be.

Their mutual happiness having now banished that constraint and uneasiness, which for some time had been between them, their conversation became very sprightly. Zulica believing she had delivered Mazulhim from the hands of the enchanters, applauded the effects of her charms; and Mazulhim more satisfied with himself, seemed also to be perfectly gay.

While this good humour continued, supper was served up to table. They sat down with that easy freedom, which is the life of

converſation; and being, perhaps, two of the moſt cenſorious, miſchievous perſons in all Agra, they began to entertain themſelves at the expence of all thoſe perſons of either ſex, who were ſo unfortunate as to come under their conſideration.

"Can you tell me," ſaid Mazulhim, "what extraordinary adventure has happened to Altan-Can, that for theſe few "days paſt has made him aſſume ſuch an "air of gravity and importance?"

"O heaven!" replied Zulica, "without "doubt I know it all: but is it poſſible "that you can be ignorant, that he has "commenced an affair of pleaſure with "Aïſcha?"——"With Aïſcha!" cried Mazulhim; "to have an affair with her, "methinks ſhould rather be a matter of "humiliation, than of glory to him."

"To another, queſtionleſs, it would be "ſo," anſwered Zulica; "but when you "reflect on what ſort a man he is, you "can-

"cannot but think he does him too much "honour."

"I protest," said Mazulhim, "how "ridiculous soever Altan-Can may be, I "cannot however forbear pitying his mis-"fortune——to be known for the lover of "Aischa, is to be, without contradiction, "the most miserable man on earth."

"But that," returned she, "which to "me seems most singular in this amour is, "that she would fain make it a secret."

"No, no," answered he, "it is only you "that would give it that turn: Aischa ne-"ver attempted to conceal her lovers; and "I dare swear, that at the age she now is, "and the fat and disagreeable figure she "now makes, she would be less disposed "than ever to do it——Nothing is more "certain than what I tell you," continued she; "and if it be as you say, a secret, it "must be Altan-Can, who, for very good "reasons, desires it should be kept so."

"Well,"—ſaid Mazulhim, "what is "become of little Meſem? I think ſhe "does not viſit you of late?" "No," replied Zulica, with a haughty prudiſh air," "it is becauſe I do not permit her to come "to my houſe. Her conduct is become "ſtrangely irregular, and ſuch as I cannot "approve, or think proper to counte-"nance." "You are very much in the "right," replied he, with a malicious ſneer; "nothing is of more conſequence to a wo-"man of reputation, than to keep good "company. But I think," continued he, "that ſhe is grown much more handſome "than ſhe was—all her charms ſeem em-"belliſhed, and her air is perfectly en-"chanting." "Quite the contrary," cried Zulica, with ſome emotion, "ſhe is alter-"ed indeed, but very much for the worſe. "—She was never poſſeſt of much beauty, "but is now grown hideous—forbidding "—ſhocking"—

"I cannot be of your opinion," ſaid Mazulhim, interrupting her—"ſhe has in-"deed a certain paleneſs, inclined to yel-"lowiſh, and a faintneſs in her motions; "but that ſerves only to render her more "delicate; and if the ill ſtate of health "ſhe has been in for ſome time continues "much longer, ſhe will be a moſt charm-"ing creature."

"I ſhall never have done," ſaid Amanzei, interrupting himſelf, "if I ſhould re-"peat to your moſt auguſt majeſty all the "diſcourſe they had together."—"Ah! I "comprehend it well enough," replied the ſultan, "and I give you leave to make "what abridgments you pleaſe; neverthe-"leſs, when I am in a thoughtful humour, "you may tell it me." "I dare not pro-"miſe your majeſty," reſumed Amanzei, "that what I have to ſay will be ſuffici-"ently intereſting for"——"I believe ſo "too," cried the ſultan haſtily——"I be-"lieve, it would not be very intereſting

"indeed;

"indeed; but wherefore (for I have wondered at it a thouſand times) wherefore in a hiſtory, or in a tale, call it which you will, is not every thing intereſting?" "For very good reaſons," anſwered the ſultaneſs, "thoſe incidents, which are only introduced to bring on a cataſtrophe, for example, ought not to be ſo affecting as the cataſtrophe itſelf. Did every thing equally move the paſſions, they would by degrees loſe all their force, and we ſhould ceaſe to be moved at all; becauſe the mind cannot be always attentive—the heart cannot ſupport continual agitation; and both the one and the other require a time for relaxation."

"O! I underſtand you," ſaid the ſultan, "one muſt ſometimes be made dull, in order to be the better diverted.—People of a certain judgment, and that think after a certain faſhion, eaſily ſee into every thing;—but proceed Amanzei."

"Ma-

Mazulhim, resumed the new Emir, less enamoured after supper with the charms of Zulica, than he had been the whole day; among a thousand subjects therefore which she had offered for his amusement, he seemed not to think any one of them agreeable; he incessantly contradicted whatever she said. And Zulica prepared to take her leave of him, with an air, that made me doubt if she would ever return.

In spite, however, of her ill humour, and the manner in which Mazulhim had treated her, he had the assurance to ask her to come again; and added, with eagerness, that he expected that she would not be two days before she repeated her visit. Though, in that moment, she had little inclination, I believe, to grant what he appeared to desire with so much ardor; yet she promised to be there the day succeeding the next. But what she promised on this score, seemed so cold and constrained, that I was far from imagining she would keep her word.

At

At this inſtant I reflected, that after the departure of Mazulhim, I ſhould have a very melancholy time to continue in his Sopha, and that it would be ſufficient for me to return when he was there himſelf. Whereas if I accompanied Zulica to her palace, I might perhaps, from what I had already ſeen of the woman, find ſomewhat there, which might both inſtruct and amuſe me. I reſolved to follow my inclination, and accordingly went with her into her chair. As ſoon as I had got into her apartment, I was by the attraction inſpired into me by Brama in the firſt Sopha that preſented itſelf. It happened to be in the dreſſing-room of Zulica; and the next morning as ſhe was at her toilet, word was brought, that Zadis was come to wait on her. She ordered he ſhould attend for ſome time in the antichamber, not being willing he ſhould ſee her, till her beauty had received all thoſe illuſtrations, which ſhe uſually appeared in, and

and which were all indeed that was in the power of art to beſtow.

This was, however, what ſhe only called being *decent*. And if I were to deſcribe the diſorder ſhe was in, and ſome other irregularities about her perſon, this laſt reaſon would not be found ſo imaginary, as it might appear to thoſe who ſaw her not in her firſt quitting her bed.

Zadis was at laſt admitted. If I had not heard his name, I ſhould have known him by the picture Mazulhim had drawn of him the night before. He had a compoſed ſerious countenance, a reſerve in his behaviour, with all the marks of a perſon that treated love with that dignity of ſentiment and ſcrupulous delicacy, which are at preſent ſo much out of faſhion, and which perhaps were always more troubleſome than agreeable.

He approached Zulica with all the timidity of a man, who had never yet preſumed to declare his paſſion; and ſhe, on her part, received

received him with a ceremonious politeneſs, and an air of prudery, which I never ſaw aſſumed but to deceive.

While Zulica's women were preſent, they only talked of things indifferent. The topics of their converſation were public news, faſhions in dreſs, the weather, and ſuch frivolous matters. Zadis, who believed himſelf to be the only perſon beloved by Zulica, and that it was his duty to behave in ſuch a manner, as ſhould not give the leaſt ſuſpicion of their private familiarity, ſcarce permitted himſelf to lift his eyes up to her face. And Zulica having found him weak enough to eſteem her, and to look on her as a woman of the utmoſt ſincerity, honour, and tenderneſs, took care to confirm him in that opinion, by all the arts of hypocriſy. She repaid the diſtant reſpects he treated her with in the moſt obliging, yet at the ſame time, reſerved manner. And if, before her women, ſhe ſometimes favoured him with a ſtolen glance, ſhe preſently withdrew

withdrew her eyes, as fearful of being obſerved.

Zadis, in this morning's viſit, was extremely grave. And Zulica imagining ſhe ſaw ſomething in him that denoted a more than ordinary diſquiet, aſked him ſeveral times the occaſion of it; but to all the queſtions ſhe put to him on this ſcore, he only anſwered with profound bows, accompanied with ſighs yet more profound.

As ſoon as ſome little ornaments of dreſs were put on, which at the entrance of Zadis were uncompleted, the women of Zulica retired. And when they were alone, "Zadis," ſaid ſhe, with an air of authority, "I inſiſt on being made acquainted with "the cauſe of that ſecret diſcontent, which, "in ſpite of all your endeavours to reſtrain, "I ſee but too plainly in your eyes. "——Can you believe I intereſt myſelf "ſo little in what regards you, as not to "be extremely troubled when I ſee you in "this condition.—And after the proofs I

"have

"have given you of my tenderneſs, ought "I not to reſent the being kept in igno- "rance of any affairs that concern your "peace.—In a word, I muſt be acquaint- "ed with all that paſſes in your ſoul, and "will never forgive you for being refuſed "my ſhare."

"Perhaps, Madam," anſwered he, "my "trouble is of a nature, that, if known, "would the more offend you.—I am in- "deed agitated to a degree impoſſible to be "concealed from eyes ſo penetrating as "your's; yet of what advantage would it "be to make a confidante of one, who "would rather condemn than pity my miſ- "fortune."

Zulica appeared aſtoniſhed at theſe words, but reſolving to have her curioſity ſatisfied, preſſed him in ſuch a manner, that he found he could not, without incurring her ever- laſting diſpleaſure, be any longer ſilent. "Well, then Madam," ſaid he, with a faultering voice," you muſt be obeyed.—

"I

"I will no longer conceal from you the "boldneſs and the folly the extremity of "my paſſion forces me to be guilty of— "I am jealous!"—

"Jealous," cried Zulica, more amazed than before, "and of me?—Is it me that "you love? and can you be jealous after "receiving ſo many confirmations that I "can love none but you?"—"Ah! Ma-"dam," replied he, looking on her with eyes in which love and grief were painted, "overwhelm me not with your juſt diſ-"pleaſure.—I am ſenſible how ridiculous "my diſquiets make me——I know I do "wrong both to you and to myſelf—I bluſh "to think how unjuſt I am——my mind "diſapproves of the emotions of my heart, "and proteſts againſt the wild chimera; "yet I have not the power to chace it "thence; and not all the reſpect I bear "you, not all the eſteem which is ſo much "your due, can hinder me from becoming "my own tormentor; nor is even the

"ſhame

" ſhame I find in myſelf for entertaining " ſuch ſuſpicions of any ſervice to ſup- " preſs them."

" Hear me, Zadis," ſaid Zulica with a majeſtic air, " and always retain the me- " mory of what I now ſay to you.—I love " you—I bluſh not to repeat it; and I am " going to give you a proof how dear you " are to me, which ought to leave you " nothing henceforward to complain of. " —It is, Zadis, that I pardon your un- " juſt ſuſpicions—I might remind you of " the difficulty you found, all amiable " as you are, in gaining my heart—— " I might bid you reflect on the manner in " which I live, and aſk yourſelf, if any " thing in my conduct could give you " room for doubt.—I might tell you, that " my character ought to inſpire you with a " perfect confidence.——I might even de- " ſpiſe, and at the ſame time reſent, your " groundleſs fears.—I might, I ſay, may I " *ought* to do all this; but my heart is too

" much

"much on your ſide, and I rather chooſe "by gentle means to reclaim you to rea- "ſon.—What think you, Zadis," conti- nued ſhe, looking more tenderly on him, "muſt not that love be great, which makes "me thus deſcend to explanations?"

"Ah! Madam," cried Zadis, throwing himſelf at her feet, "I believe you love me, "and I ſhould die with grief, if I could "think that even my ſuſpicions, which ſo "much torment me, ſhould paſs with you "for want of reſpect." "No, Zadis," anſwered ſhe with a ſmile, "I neither "doubt your reſpect, nor your love. But "tell me, what has occaſioned your in- "quietude?" "No matter, Madam," ſaid he, "it is now no more.—You have "been ſo divinely good to chaſe the fury "from my breaſt, to return, I hope no "more." "Yet I *will* be told it," re- ſumed ſhe fondly. "Well then, Ma- "dam," ſaid he, "the aſſiduities that Ma- "zulhim of late has paid you.—"What!"

interrupted she, "Mazulhim! Is it of "him you have been jealous? Ah! "Zadis, are you endowed by Brama with "the perfections you have, to fear a rival "such as Mazulhim?—Can you have so "mean an opinion of my judgment, as "once to think I could be pleased with "such a man?—Zadis—Zadis—Can I—! "*ought* I, to forgive you?"

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Ends one Adventure, and begins another.

THE eyes of Zulica, in ſpeaking theſe words, let fall ſome tears. And Zadis, who could have ſworn they had been ſincere, could not refrain from ſympathizing in the tender grief ſhe expreſt. "Yes, "moſt excellent of women," cried he, "I "have injured you, and I know not if even "the violence of the paſſion, that occa-"ſioned it, can plead any excuſe." "Ah, "cruel!" anſwered ſhe, with a voice interrupted with ſobs, "be jealous if you will, "—Abandon yourſelf to all your frenzy.— "I conſent to it. But if you know me ſo "little, as not to confide in my affection, "at leaſt ſuſpect me not of being capable "of loving Mazulhim."

"I do not think you love him," replied he, "nor ever once imagined you could be

" pleaſed with his addreſſes; but yet I could
" not without concern ſee him ſo often
" here. He is notwithſtanding," ſaid ſhe,
" of all the men you ſee here the leaſt
" dangerous. When I had not received
" your addreſſes—when my heart was not
" prepoſſeſſed, had Mazulhim adored me,
" and had the number of his perfections if
" poſſible, exceeded even the number of his
" vices, he would have been the laſt of men
" in my eſteem.——How can you think a
" woman (I will not ſay of reputation) but
" even one not loſt to all ſenſe of ſhame,
" could liſten to the addreſſes of a wretch
" like Mazulhim?—A man who never knew
" what it was to love—a man who pub-
" licly declares he is incapable of the ten-
" der paſſion—a man who looks on all
" delicacy as romantic; and who, in fine,
" is ſenſible to no pleaſure, but that of ex-
" poſing thoſe women who are weak and
" ill-judging enough to give credit to his
" pretences.—I paſs over his other quali-

" ties

"ties—his fopperies—his impertinences, "though I could find enough to ridicule; "but, in truth, I bluſh to talk ſo long on "ſo worthleſs a ſubject. As for the reſt, "though I find your ſuſpicions to be no "leſs injurious than ill-placed, yet ſince "you have confeſſed them to me, I ſhall "give you the ſatisfaction to aſſure you, "that I ſhall break off all acquaintance "with Mazulhim, as ſoon as I can find "an opportunity to do it, without making "it a matter of diſcourſe."

Zadis kiſſed her hand with the utmoſt tranſport, and acknowledged the goodneſs ſhe ſhewed to him in terms both ſincere and grateful.—"For what do you thank me," ſaid ſhe, "I have made you no ſacrifice in "promiſing you henceforward to avoid the "converſation of a man, who was always "my averſion, I oblige myſelf as much "you." "But Madam," reſumed he, "is "it poſſible, that Mazulhim has never de-"clared to you that he admired you?"—

"O the wild notion!" anſwered ſhe laughing, "no, I aſſure you.——Mazulhim "knows me better than you do; and, raſh "and unthinking as he is, he is not however ſo mad as to preſume to prate in "that faſhion to women of a certain kind; "nevertheleſs, if he ſhould ever have the "vanity to ſay, in public company, that "he either was, or had been on good terms "with me, a perſon of your diſpoſition "would readily enough believe him."

"No, Madam," anſwered he, "I have "had the folly to fear ſometimes, but I "ſwear to you, I had never that of believing." "I will not take your oath," reſumed ſhe gaily, "for in the humour "you are at preſent, I am certain it would "be a pleaſure to you to hear ſomething "ſaid of me, that would give you an opportunity to come and reproach me; and "by that means the firſt coxcomb that "knew your character, would have it in "his power to give you diſquiet."

"Spare

"Spare me, Madam," cried he, "ſpare "me for the love of Brama, and remember, "that how guilty ſoever my jealouſy has "made me, you have had the goodneſs to "pardon me." "But I have my fears too," ſaid ſhe, "I fear this will not be the laſt "time you will ſtand in need of forgive-"neſs, and that to make you relapſe into "your ſuſpicions, there requires no more "than to ſee Mazulhim come into my "houſe."

"Let us talk no more of him;" reſumed Zadis, "and as you cannot but be con-"vinced, that my injuſtice ſprung only "from the exceſs of love, ſuffer not the "precious moments of our being alone to "be trifled away, but confirm the pardon "you have vouchſafed to give me."

At theſe words, the meaning of which Zulica very well comprehended, ſhe aſſumed a kind of perplexed air; "why," ſaid ſhe, "will you permit your deſires to tri-"umph ſo much over you?—Muſt I be

"for ever ſacrificing to you?——If you "knew how much I ſhould love you if "you were more moderate.—It is true," added ſhe, ſeeing him ſmile;—"you would "be a thouſand times more dear to me; "at leaſt, I think ſo;—but you men are "ſo violent—ſo robuſt—one dare not give "a looſe to one's tenderneſs for fear of"—

While ſhe was ſpeaking thus heroically, ſhe ſuffered herſelf to be conducted languiſhing towards me. "Well, Zadis," ſaid ſhe, as ſoon as ſhe was ſeated upon me, "I proteſt I never more will quarrel "with you." "I ſhould wiſh it," replied he, "but dare not hope ſo great a "happineſs." "If you conſider how much "a reconciliation coſts me," cried ſhe, "you would eaſily believe me."

Notwithſtanding all the reluctance ſhe had teſtified, ſhe at laſt reſigned herſelf to the ardour of her lover; but ſuch decorum, ſuch modeſty, ſuch majeſty, ſuch a ſhew of contempt for the pleaſures ſhe beſtowed,

as

as perhaps was never known in the like caſe. Any other man than Zadis would doubtleſs have complained of the little ſatiſfaction ſhe ſeemed to take in his embraces; but he was in reality too much of a lover, not to be charmed even with the follies of his miſtreſs. And thinking himſelf the happieſt man in the world to have triumphed over ſo rigid a virtue, to make himſelf more agreeable to her, he affected as well as he could, that air of dignity ſhe had aſſumed even in thoſe moments when it could be leaſt expected, or was leaſt conformable; and in order to increaſe her deſire, endeavoured as much as poſſible to repreſs his own.

I will not pretend to ſay, however, what paſſed in the mind of Zulica after this. But ſhe propoſed to Zadis to paſs the whole day with her; and that it ſhould not be known he was there, as well as to prevent any interruption while they were together, gave orders, that whoever called ſhould be told ſhe was gone abroad. Zadis, whoſe late

jealouſy, as it is ordinary with lovers, had rendered him more amorous than ever, thought he could never enough acknowledge the goodneſs of Zulica; and though he was naturally, as Mazulhim had ſaid of him, no great talker, his volubility on this occaſion ſhewed the abundance of his gratitude, his love, and his eſteem. The night was half paſt before he took his leave. Nothing could be more endearing than their behaviour to each other at parting. And Zadis went away perſuaded within himſelf, that there was not a woman in Agra, more tender, or more delicate than Zulica.

I have already told your auguſt majeſty, continued Amanzei, that I did not believe, by the manner in which Zulica had quitted Mazulhim, and much more by what I diſcovered of her way of thinking, that ſhe would have continued a converſation ſo little agreeable to a woman of her character, and to which neither love, pleaſure, nor intereſt had any ſhare in exciting. Curioſity,

ſity, however, prevailed above all other motives, and the appointment ſhe had made him run in her head. She had told Zadis on his going away, that a very important affair would deprive her of the pleaſure of ſeeing him next day. And the evening prefixed for her going to the little houſe of Mazulhim being arrived, ſhe went into her chair, and my ſpirit accompanied her, not a little impatient to ſee what kind of meeting there would be between two perſons, who had ſeparated in the faſhion they had done.

A ſlave, who belonged to Mazulhim, and was the perſon who conſtantly attended on him, and whatever ladies were the partakers of his pleaſures in this retirement, opened the door, and conducted her into the cabinet, where ſhe had been before, and where my ſoul took its place again in the Sopha.

"What," cried ſhe, perceiving no body was there, "is not your maſter come?—

"This is very obliging indeed, to let me "be the firſt here!—It is vaſtly proper, "that I ſhould wait for him!"—The ſlave aſſured her, that he expected him every moment, and attempted to make ſome excuſes for this delay.—"No, no," ſaid ſhe, interrupting him, "I ſhall let him know that "the airs he gives himſelf are not very be-"coming—but now I think on it, I will "be gone.—You may tell him, that when "he ſees me next he will be more obſequi-"ous."——With theſe words ſhe went towards the door, but ſoon changed her reſolution. "No," cried ſhe, "I will "ſtay till he comes, that he may know "from my own mouth, how little I can "forgive ſuch treatment." The ſlave then retired, making a profound reverence; and ſhe threw herſelf on me, quite overcome with rage and diſdain.

The natural impetuoſity of her temper, now thinking herſelf alone, ſhewed itſelf in all its vehemence. She loaded Mazulhim with

with what opprobrious names paſſion could ſuggeſt.——She ſwore a thouſand times never to ſee him more; and as often accuſed herſelf of a facility beyond example. At laſt, ſhe heard a chariot ſtop at the door, and not doubting but it was the perſon ſhe expected, roſe haſtily up, and flew to meet him, prepared to ſhew how greatly ſhe knew to reſent the affront he had put upon her.

"You well deſerve, indeed," cried ſhe, "the regard of a woman of condition.—"Your character, your manners, your "morals are all of a-piece, and"——ſhe was going on in theſe terms while ſhe heard him on the ſtairs; but on the door being thrown open, ſaid no more than, Ah, heaven! and gave a great ſhriek at the ſight of the gentleman who entered.

I was little leſs aſtoniſhed than Zulica, to find it was a man I had never ſeen before. "How!" cried Schah Baham, "was it not Mazulhim!" "No, may it

"pleaſe

"pleaſe your majeſty," replied Amanzei. "Not Mazulhim!" reſumed the ſultan, "that is an odd incident indeed! And "why was it not him?" "Your majeſ-"ty ſhall be preſently informed," ſaid Amanzei. "Nothing ſure was ever ſo "comical as this," cried the ſultan,— "he deceives her then—aye, aye, if is "plain, he deceives her—I ſee it, I am ſel-"dom miſtaken.—But tell me, Amanzei, "while I think on it, what ſort of a place "was this ſame little houſe you ſpeak of? "—I have had a great deal of curioſity "about it, ever ſince you firſt mentioned "it; and now I can hold no longer." "It is, moſt auguſt emperor," replied A-manzei, "a houſe built ſo as not to be "overlooked by the neighbourhood, where, "without any attendance, people of qua-"lity can go."——"O! I underſtand," cried the ſultan, "a word is enough to let "me into the bottom of every thing.— "Well, I ſwear by my ſceptre, theſe lit-

"tle

"tle houſes are very commodious—but go
"on, Amanzei."

The fury and aſtoniſhment that Zulica was in, at ſeeing a gueſt ſo unexpected, and who, as I afterwards found, had the leaſt reaſon of any man in the world to flatter himſelf with a welcome, was ſo great, that it deprived her of her ſpeech for ſome time. "I know, Madam," ſaid this Indian to her, with the extremeſt reſpect, "that you have reaſon to be ſurprized at "my preſence; and that, according to the "prejudice you have conceived againſt "me, you would have choſen to have been "ſeen here by any eyes rather than mine; "but, Madam, the ſight of you has given "me no leſs emotion.—I imagined not "that the lady, to whom Mazulhim en-"treated me to bear his excuſes, was the "woman who of all the world, were I ſo "happy to be in his place, I ſhould have "the leaſt inclination to diſappoint. It "is not however, that Mazulhim is guilty.

"—No,

"—No, Madam, he is ſenſible of his ob-
"ligations to your goodneſs—he burns
"with impatience to teſtify his gratitude
"at your feet; but ſome cruel orders from
"court, which, how ſacred ſoever they
"ought to be to all faithful ſubjects, he
"had many ſtruggles before he could bring
"himſelf to obey, have torn him from all
"the happineſs his ſoul propoſed to enjoy
"this evening. He thought, that he could
"depend on my diſcretion, more than on
"that of a ſervant; and would not hazard
"a ſecret, where a perſon, ſuch as Zulica,
"was ſo particularly concerned."

Zulica was ſo confounded at this adven-
ture, that the Indian had time to ſpeak all
this without her having power to interrupt
him: the perplexity ſhe was in, made her
even to wiſh, he had yet more to ſay—her
amazement rendering her immoveable, ſhe
continued with her eyes fixed on the ground,
her cheeks dyed in crimſon with rage and
ſhame, till at laſt the mingled paſſions found

vent

vent in a torrent of tears. The Indian ſeeing her thus, took her reſpectfully by the hand, and conducted her to me; where, without uttering one ſingle word, ſhe ſuffered him to place her.

"I perceive, Madam," ſaid he, "you "are reſolved to think Mazulhim guilty, "and all I can alledge in his juſtification, "ſeems to increaſe your reſentment againſt "him.——How happy is he to be of ſo "much conſequence to your peace! As "much as I am his friend, I envy him the "precious tears you have ſhed on his ac-"count!—How great muſt be your love, "that can"——"Love him!——Do you "think I love him," cried Zulica fiercely, interrupting him?—"Could not I come "here on buſineſs in which love has no "part? Cannot one have an acquaintance "with Mazulhim, without conceiving for "him ſentiments of the nature you would "impute to me?—On what reaſons then "dare

"dare you to form a conjecture ſo injurious to my honour?"

"I dare maintain," replied the Indian ſmiling, "that if my conjectures are not "true, they are at leaſt highly probable. "The tears you ſhed—the rage you are "in——the hour in which I find you in "a place conſecrated only to love, would "make any one believe that the influence "of that almighty power had conducted "you hither.—It is in vain, Madam, add-"ed he, to deny it: I know that you "love: make if you pleaſe a crime of the "object, not of the paſſion."

"How!" cried Zulica, "do you per-"ſiſt in believing it?—Will nothing ob-"lige you to renounce ſo cruel a cenſure? "—Has Mazulhim told you, that I love "him?" "Yes, Madam, anſwered he. —"And you believe him," reſumed ſhe, with an air of amazement? "Yes," reſumed he; "and you muſt give me leave "to tell you, that the truth is ſo evident,

"it

"it would even be ridiculous to doubt it."
"Well," ſaid ſhe, "I ſhall confeſs it then
"—Yes, I have loved him—I have told
"him ſo, and I came here to prove it—
"the ungrateful man had the artifice to
"beguile my reaſon, to ſilence the remon-
"ſtrances of my virtue, make me forget my
"character; and, in fine, to perſuade me
"to meet him at this place.—I bluſh not
"to avow all this.——But perfidious and
"unworthy as I now find him, never ſhall
"he have any other proofs of my weakneſs
"than the confeſſion I have made him.—
"Had the diſcovery of his baſeneſs been
"deferred but one day longer! Heavens,
"what would have become of me!"

"Ah! Madam," ſaid the Indian coldly, "do you think friends, and inſeparable
"companions as we are, that Mazulhim
"has ſo ill an opinion of me, as to make
"me but a half confidante in this ſecret?"
"What can he have ſaid more to you," cried ſhe, eagerly?—"He dares not to add

"calumny

"calumny to the affront he has put upon "me——he does not dare to forge ſo "baſe a lye as to affirm I have erred with "him any farther than in intention?" "Mazulhim," Madam, anſwered he, "may be guilty of ſome indiſcretions, but "I cannot believe he would utter an un-"truth." "O the villain!" ſaid ſhe, "this is the firſt time I ever was here." "I "find," reſumed he, "that you would "not have me give any credit to his words; "ſo to oblige you, Madam, I will rather "believe Mazulhim has deceived me, than "contradict you any longer. But, Ma-"dam," continued he, looking tenderly upon her, "before whom do you take this "pains to vindicate yourſelf, before a man "whom, if you truly knew, and to whoſe "veracity, if you would do juſtice, you "would little fear to make the repoſitory "of your deareſt ſecrets.—You weep! alas, "it is too great an honour for the ingrate. "Beautiful as you are, how much is ven-

"geance

"geance in your power.—Yes, Madam, "yes; Mazulhim has told me all—I am "not ignorant that you have been over- "come by his vows—I know even the par- "ticulars of his happineſs with you— "Be not offended, purſued he, it was not "want of reſpect, but from the abundance "of his love that made him give me the "whole account.——His felicity was too "great to be contained—had he been leſs "tranſported, he would doubtleſs have "been more diſcreet—it was not his vanity, "but his exceſs of joy, that would not "permit him to keep ſilence."

"Mazulhim!" interrupted Zulica im- patiently, "O, the traitor!—what, am I "ſacrificed by Mazulhim!—has Mazul- "him himſelf expoſed a weakneſs he alone "found in me!—It is well, purſued ſhe," in a tone ſomewhat leſs furious, "I did "not know mankind, and, thanks be to his "perfidiouſneſs, I ſhall henceforth fly them "all;—not altogether wretched in having

"purchaſed

"calumny to the affront he has put upon "me——he does not dare to forge ſo "baſe a lye as to affirm I have erred with "him any farther than in intention?" "Mazulhim," Madam, anſwered he, "may be guilty of ſome indiſcretions, but "I cannot believe he would utter an un-"truth." "O the villain!" ſaid ſhe, "this is the firſt time I ever was here." "I "find," reſumed he, "that you would "not have me give any credit to his words; "ſo to oblige you, Madam, I will rather "believe Mazulhim has deceived me, than "contradict you any longer. But, Ma-"dam," continued he, looking tenderly upon her, "before whom do you take this "pains to vindicate yourſelf, before a man "whom, if you truly knew, and to whoſe "veracity, if you would do juſtice, you "would little fear to make the repoſitory "of your deareſt ſecrets.—You weep! alas, "it is too great an honour for the ingrate. "Beautiful as you are, how much is ven-

"geance

" geance in your power.—Yes, Madam,
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" not ignorant that you have been over-
" come by his vows—I know even the par-
" ticulars of his happineſs with you—
" Be not offended, purſued he, it was not
" want of reſpect, but from the abundance
" of his love that made him give me the
" whole account.——His felicity was too
" great to be contained—had he been leſs
" tranſported, he would doubtleſs have
" been more diſcreet—it was not his vanity,
" but his exceſs of joy, that would not
" permit him to keep ſilence."

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" found in me!—It is well, purſued ſhe,"
in a tone ſomewhat leſs furious, " I did
" not know mankind, and, thanks be to his
" perfidiouſneſs, I ſhall henceforth fly them
" all;—not altogether wretched in having

" purchaſed

" purchaſed experience at the expence of " one fault." " Ah! Madam," replied the Indian, feigning to believe what ſhe ſaid, " that would be to puniſh, not to re- " venge yourſelf." " No," ſaid ſhe, " all " men are baſe——I have the cruel experi- " ence of the whole ſex in one—all—all " are Mazulhims."

" Think not ſo unjuſtly," anſwered he, " I ſwear to you by Brama, that had you " put me in the place of Mazulhim, " you never ſhould have ſeen him in " mine." " But," cried ſhe, not regard- ing what he ſaid, " is there any truth in the " excuſe you have made for him?——Are " the orders, which you ſaid detained him " from me any more than a vain pretence? " —Fear not to tell me, for I cannot be " more unhappy than I am."

" It would be needleſs to impoſe upon " you," replied he, " it was indeed not want " of power but of inclination that engaged " him to ſend me, inſtead of coming him- " ſelf.

"ſelf.—He loves you not"—"Not love "me!" cried ſhe, all in tears—"Ah! "can I ſurvive ſo mortal a ſhock.——Un- "grateful man, is this the recompence of "my tenderneſs!"

After this ſhe fell into the moſt violent exclamations——Grief, rage and dejection, by turns, ſucceeded to each other. The Indian, who knew her very ſoul, contradicted nothing ſhe ſaid, but pretended to admire her in the different paſſions ſhe aſſumed.—"I feel I cannot live," ſaid ſhe, after a long fit of weeping, "it is not for "a heart ſo tender, ſo delicate as mine, to "ſuſtain an injury like this without break- "ing; but if he loves me not with all the "ſincerity I am miſtreſs of, what would "he have done if I had deceived him?"

"He would have adored you," replied the Indian. "I can then conceive nothing "of ſuch a diſpoſition," reſumed ſhe. "And were I to reflect on it ſhould loſe "myſelf in thought. But tell me why, if

"he

" he no longer loves me, he had not cou-
" rage to declare to me in perſon his in-
" gratitude, why did he not write to me?
" —Do men break off even with objects
" the moſt contemptible, in the faſhion he
" does with me? Or, why again were *you*
" the perſon he made choice of to bring me
" his fatal meſſage?"

" I ſee but too plainly, Madam," replied he, " that the confidante is even more diſ-
" pleaſing to you than the confidence it-
" ſelf. And I aſſure you, that knowing as
" I do the unjuſt averſion you always had
" to me, I would not have come here, if
" Mazulhim had named the lady to whom
" he deſired me to carry his apology.—
" I ſwear to you alſo, with equal ſin-
" cerity, that (my ſentiments for you be-
" ing entirely the reverſe of thoſe I have
" the misfortune to know you have for me)
" had Mazulhim mentioned the name of
" Zulica, I ſhould not have believed him,
" nor could have thought there was a man

" in

"in the world, who could not have been "happy in being beloved by her."

"So that, Madam," continued he, "it was "very innocently that I contributed to give "you a ſhock, (the greateſt I confeſs a wo-"man can poſſibly receive) and that I find "myſelf in poſſeſſion of ſecrets, which, "doubtleſs, you had rather were entruſted "to any other breaſt than mine." "I "know not for what reaſon you imagine "ſo," replied ſhe, a little perplexed, "ſe-"crets of the nature you are acquainted "with, are indeed improper to be repoſed "in any one—but I have no objection to "make to you in particular."

"Pardon me," Madam, interrupted he haſtily, "I am but too well convinced of "your averſion for me. I am not ignorant, "that, on all occaſions, my wit, my per-"ſon, and my manners have been the ſub-"ject of your raillery, or rather of your "ſevereſt criticiſms. Thus, Madam, have "you treated me. I might perhaps deſerve

" your cenſure; for, I confeſs, that if I have
" any virtues, I owe them all to the deſire
" of rendering myſelf worthy of your praiſes,
" or to oblige you at leaſt, to paſs over thoſe
" defects, which you have conſtantly ſo cru-
" elly both enumerated and exaggerated."

" Me!" ſaid ſhe bluſhing, " I never
" ſpoke the leaſt ſyllable of you that could
" give you diſpleaſure—neither had I cauſe
" —in the acquaintance we have had to-
" gether, you never gave me the leaſt rea-
" ſon for complaint, and you cannot be-
" lieve me to be ſo ridiculous as to"—

" Put a period, if you pleaſe, Madam,"
interrupted he, " to this topic—an expla-
" nation cannot as things now are, be very
" agreeable to you; permit me only to tell
" you, that with the ſentiments I had for
" you, (ſentiments ſuch as your injuſtice
" could not alter) I was the man of the
" whole world, who deſerved your regard
" and the leaſt your averſion."—" Yes
" Madam," continued he, with a deep

ſig

ſigh, "nothing has been capable of ex-
"tinguiſhing the unhappy paſſion you
"have inſpired me with—your diſdain—
"your hate——your malice againſt me,
"plunged me into the moſt exceſſive grief,
"but rouzed no reſentment in me——I
"knew your heart too well, to flatter my-
"ſelf you would ever look on me with the
"eyes of favour; but I hoped my pa-
"tience and prudence in every thing, that
"regarded you, would one day render
"me leſs odious; and if you could not
"prevail on yourſelf to give me your friend-
"ſhip, you would not refuſe me your
"eſteem."

Zulica a little affected by ſo reſpectful a diſcourſe, owned that a caprice, of which ſhe knew not the ſource, had frequently made her ſpeak of him in the manner he accuſed her of, but aſſured him ſhe would repair that fault for the future; and though ſhe never had been ſeriouſly his enemy, would now omit nothing that might con-

vince him, ſhe was really his friend; adding, that he might depend on her beſt wiſhes, her eſteem, and her gratitude.

After having given him this ſatisfaction, and entreated he would keep inviolably the ſecret entruſted to him by her perfidious lover, ſhe roſe and prepared to take leave.

"Where would you go, Madam," ſaid the Indian, gently endeavouring to replace her?——"You have no perſon in "waiting, I have ſent away your ſer-"vants, and the hour in which I ordered "them to return, will not ſoon ar-"rive." No matter," anſwered ſhe, "I "cannot ſuffer myſelf to continue in a "place, where every thing I ſee, reminds "me of my weakneſs." "Forget Ma-"zulhim," ſaid he, "this houſe at pre-"ſent belongs not to him, he has yielded "it to me—permit him who of all man-"kind moſt intereſts himſelf for you, moſt "adores you, to entreat you will command "it. Think at leaſt what you would do

"—you

"—you cannot leave it at this time, with-
"out the danger of being ſeen—let not
"your reſentment make you forget what is
"owing to yourſelft--hink that to be known
"to have been here, would be the total ruin
"of your reputation—conſider that by any
"raſh proceeding, you may before to-
"morrow become the talk of all Agra;
"and inſtead of that high virtue, for which
"you are now ſo much eſteemed, you will
"then be mentioned, as a perſon to whom
"theſe adventures are common."

Zulica reſiſted for ſome time the argu-ments Naſſes (that was the name of the In-dians,) made uſe of to prevail on her to ſtay. "Every thing is prepared here for your re-
"ception," ſaid he, "permit me therefore,
"to paſs the evening with you.—Such as
"you are, ſuch as I am myſelf, may anſwer
"for the reſpect you will be treated with.
"—Apprehend not I beſeech you, the ef-
"fects of a paſſion, which if I preſume to
"mention to you, it is only to make you

" ſenſible to what a degree I am concerned
" in your happineſs, and to endeavour to
" eraze from your mind thoſe cruel ideas,
" which the indiſcretion, and levity of Ma-
" zulhim has planted there."

After a great deal of perſuaſion, Zulica at length ſuffered herſelf to be perſuaded. And Naſſes having placed himſelf near her, " Thinking as you do, Madam," ſaid he, " and having honour and reputation ſo " much at heart, you muſt certainly have " been very much aſtoniſhed, when you " firſt diſcovered the marks of ſenſibility " in your heart. How!" interrupted the ſultan, " why ſure he does not know what " he ſays—either my memory fails me, or " this is the lady that was always com-
" plaining of Mazulhim's ill manners to-
" wards her." " Without doubt it is the " ſame," anſwered the ſultaneſs. " A " moment's patience," reſumed the Scah Baham, " let us conſider—if it is the ſame, " why did he ſay to her what he did"—

" this

"this lady has been accuſtomed to have lo-
"vers, and by conſequence it is ridiculous
"to tell her ſhe muſt be aſtoniſhed"—"Aye,
"but do not you perceive he is deceiving
"her all this time," anſwered the ſultan-
eſs? "He is turning the affectation of her
"virtue into ridicule." "Ah, that is
"another thing," cried the ſultan, "but
"why did not Amanzei let me know that?
"—how could he think, I could ſee into
"the minds of theſe people, as he did
"when he was a ſpirit——well he makes
"a jeſt of her then?—I ſee it well enough
"now; but to what purpoſe does he make
"a jeſt of her?—it is that I want to know."
"And that without doubt Amanzei will
"inform you, if you permit him to con-
"tinue his ſtory," ſaid the ſultaneſs.——
"Be it ſo," cried the ſultan, "what I
"ſay,—you underſtand me,—is a matter
"of indifference. We talk for talking
"ſake—it amuſes us, and for my part, I
"do not hate converſation."

CHAP. XIV.

Contains leſs Buſineſs than Diſcourſe.

THE next day Amanzei continued in this manner:

"Thinking as you do, Madam," ſaid Naſſes, "and having honour and repu-
"tation ſo much at heart, you muſt cer-
"tainly have been very much aſtoniſhed,
"when you firſt diſcovered marks of ſen-
"ſibility in your heart?" "Doubtleſs," anſwered ſhe, "and I aſſure you this is
"the only adventure of that kind, that ever
"happened to me." "That you have
"loved," reſumed he, "is not at all
"ſtrange to me; there are few women that
"eſcape the influence of that paſſion; but
"that Mazulhim ſhould be the man deſtin-
"ed to triumph over a heart, which ſeems
"ſo little formed for ſoft deſires, is, I con-
"feſs, what I cannot eaſily comprehend."

"I

"I cannot comprehend it myſelf," anſwered ſhe, "and the more I examine into "the motives of my acting in the faſhion "I have done, the leſs I am able to con-"ceive how I could ever be ſeduced by "him." "Ah, Madam!" cried Naſſes with the moſt tender air, "how cruel is "our fate—you love where you no longer "are beloved; and I love where I never "can be beloved. Wherefore, too timid "as I was, and deterred by the unjuſt a-"verſion which I knew you had for me, "did I not tell you the influence your "charms had on me? Perhaps my aſſidui-"ties, my reſpect, my conſtancy would "have diſarmed your hate." "And per-"haps alſo," ſaid ſhe, "you would have "treated me as Mazulhim has done." "No, Zulica," anſwered he, "my ado-"ration of you, ſhould have been equal to "your merit." "But," cried ſhe, "Ma-"zulhim made me the ſame profeſſions "that you do, why therefore ſhould I be-

"lieve your behaviour would have been "different?"

"The character of Mazulhim, Madam," replied he, "might have made you ſuſpi- "cious of the ſincerity of his vows—He "is known to be inconſtant, thoughtleſs, "giddy, and ignorant himſelf of what he "loves—you muſt have heard, that he is "more indiſcreet and more deceitful in "matters of love, than can be excuſed "even by his own ſex; and a woman "muſt be ſuſpected to have a more than "ordinary ſhare of pride, who could flatter "herſelf with having the power of fixing ſo "wavering a heart. Indeed, the difficul- "ties he found in gaining you, the charms "of your mind and perſon, the tranſport "of ſubduing a virtue ſo invincible to all "mankind beſides, might juſtly render "you ſecure of an eternal tenderneſs on "his part; in any other woman, this had "been a ridiculous vanity, but in Zulica "it was only a pure and uncorrupted idea,

"which

" which ſhe could not hinder herſelf from entertaining." " It is certain, at leaſt," ſaid ſhe modeſtly, " that according to my " judgment, I deſerved *ſome* regard"—— " Regard!" cried he, " ah how mean a " return, would his *regard* be for what he " owes you!—Do you then exact no other " recompence for all you have done for " him, than what one ought to pay to a " woman the leaſt worthy of eſteem? yet " you ſee," anſwered ſhe, " that I have " exacted too much"—" Ah, Madam!" cried Naſſes, " if it were permitted to me " to ſpeak"——" you may," replied ſhe haſtily, interrupting him, " with all the " freedom you can wiſh; after what has " juſt now paſt between us, you may aſ- " ſure yourſelf of the moſt tender friend- " ſhip." " How Madam!" ſaid he, in a " tranſported accent—" the moſt tender! " —it is poſſible that Naſſes, ſo long the a- " verſion of Zulica, may now flatter him- " ſelf with the moſt *tender* friendſhip!"

——"Yes, Naſſes," replied ſhe, "that "Zulica, who acknowledging, and aſham-"ed of her injuſtice, ſwears to repair it "by a behaviour altogether the reverſe, "and to give you all the proofs in her "power of her confidence and eſteem."

Theſe words were accompanied with the moſt obliging looks; Naſſes was indeed very agreeable in his perſon, and though he took not the ſame pains in his dreſs as Mezulhim, yet he was no way inferior to him. The joy that ſparkled in his eyes at hearing Zulica ſpeak in this manner, gave no ſmall addition to his manly graces: "What!" cried he again; "is it you? "you the moſt excellent of your ſex, that "has promiſed to give me all the proofs of "friendſhip in your power?"

"Yes," anſwered ſhe, "my heart hence-"forward ſhall be open to you; not the "leaſt emotion, not the leaſt idea that riſes "in it, ſhall be concealed from you; and "I will diſcloſe every thing to you with

"the

"the ſame ſincerity, as if I were ſpeak-
"ing to myſelf."

"Ah Zulica," ſaid he, throwing him-ſelf at her feet, and kiſſing her hand with the utmoſt fervor, "how infinitely beyond "my merit is the tenderneſs I ſo long have "felt for you, rewarded!——with what "pleaſure ſhall I ſubmit in every thing to "you! Sovereign miſtreſs of my ſoul, your "commands alone ſhall regulate my con-"duct." "Well, well," cried ſhe, ſmil-ing, "let us have no more of this—riſe, "I do not like to ſee you in this poſture; "return, I beſeech you, to what you were "about to ſay to me."

He then ſeated himſelf near her, and ſtill holding her by the hand, continued in theſe words. "I was going to aſk you," ſaid he, ſince you permit me to do ſo, "by "what methods Mazulhim ſucceeded in "his wiſhes? By what enchantment could "a woman ſo worthy of eſtimation, both "by her ſentiments and conduct, ever be

"prevailed

" prevailed on to truſt her heart and repu-
" tation in ſuch hands!——How could a
" man ſo vain, ſo impetuous, ſo inconſtant,
" ever be thought deſerving of the tender-
" neſs of a woman of your wiſdom, your
" conſummate virtue, your ſcrupulous mo-
" deſty.——Thoſe fluttering nothings of
" your ſex indeed, who like himſelf are
" giddy, trifling, always ready to receive
" new impreſſions, and as ready to ſhake
" them off; thoſe, who without knowing
" love themſelves, or being capable of in-
" ſpiring it, yield to the firſt man that makes
" his addreſſes; thoſe I ſay, he well might
" triumph over, the conqueſt excites no
" amazement; but you, Madam! you to be
" deceived by him! Heavens! by what
" miracle could it be brought about?"

" As a firſt teſtimony then," ſaid Zulica,
" of the confidence I have promiſed to re-
" poſe in you, I will tell you ingenuouſly,
" that I never imagined I had any thing to
" fear on the ſcore of Mazulhim; not that

" I

"I thought myſelf incapable of love; but "till I had the fatal experience, I was "entirely ignorant that there are moments, "in which the moſt virtuous woman may "be plunged into errors the moſt dreadful "and irretrievable. Too ſecure alas of "myſelf, by the reflection that nothing had "been able to make me ſwerve in the leaſt "particular, from what the ſtricteſt de-"cency required, I thought life would "perpetually glide on in the ſame calm; "and that it was not in the power of any "man whatever to excite in me thoſe emo-"tions, by which I ſaw too many of my "ſex ſeduced."

"Doubtleſs," ſaid Naſſes, with a very ſolemn air, "nothing is more dangerous "to women, than that very ſecurity you "ſpeak of;" "at leaſt," reſumed ſhe, "it is true, that we are never more in "danger of being ſubdued, than when "we think ourſelves invincible.—The in-"difference I had remained in, even for

"the

" the moſt worthy men, who were every
" day dying at my feet, deceived me, gave
" me an opinion of myſelf which I was far
" from deſerving; and when Mazulhim
" firſt paid his addreſſes, I thought of him,
" as I had thought of others——how he
" gained upon me, I know not; all that I
" can tell you, is, that after having reſiſted
" a long time, my mind run on him when
" he was abſent, my heart fluttered when
" he was preſent; and I felt ſomewhat
" of a diſorder through my whole frame,
" which till then I had been a ſtranger to.
" Mazulhim, who doubtleſs ſaw what I,
" alas! wanted artifice to diſguiſe, and
" knew better than myſelf, the nature of
" my confuſion, took his advantage of it;
" and by methods, the conſequence of
" which I was far from apprehending,
" drew me at length into a promiſe to meet
" him here, though not without his giv-
" ing me all the aſſurances in the power of
" words, that he deſired this private in-
" terview

" terview for no other reaſon, than to en-
" tertain me with more freedom, than, as I
" was always ſurrounded with the great
" world, he had the opportunity to do elſe-
" where.——In fine, I came——there was
" ſomewhat in him on that fatal day, at
" leaſt I thought ſo, more than I had ever
" ſeen before—I fell into a confuſion; I
" neither can expreſs, nor account for the
" meaning of——I grew inſenſibly leſs
" averſe to his deſires, and without know-
" ing to what I conſented, I had the power
" to refuſe him nothing—Love, or ſome-
" what to which I cannot give name, diſ-
" armed my reaſon, and left me only the
" ſhadow of what I was."

As ſhe gave over ſpeaking, tears fell in great abundance down her cheeks, ſighs heaved her breaſts, and ſeemed to ſtop the progreſs of farther words. Naſſes, who appeared to be touched in the moſt lively manner at her grief, in feigning to conſole her, ſaid every thing that was moſt likely to

throw

throw her into deſpair; he dwelt maliciouſly on the little time that Mazulhim had employed to gain her. "It is utterly impoſſible to imagine," ſaid he, "that you "want any requiſite, to make compleatly "bleſt the man you vouchſafe to favour; "yet ſo ſwift a viciſſitude from paſſion to "diſguſt, as Mazulhim has ſhewn, would "make one apt to ſuſpect the moſt diſ-"advantageous things of any other woman "than yourſelf."

At theſe words, Zulica gave herſelf an air of conſcious worth, which ſhewed Naſſes, that ſhe was ſenſible ſhe had nothing to reproach herſelf with on that ſcore. "I "know very well," continued Naſſes, "that there are men ſo fickle in their na-"tures, that they cannot for any long time "attach themſelves to one object, though "ever ſo amiable; and even in men the "leaſt wavering, the ardour of deſire abates "but by degrees, after an uninterrupted "poſſeſſion; in ſome, perhaps, in three "months;

"months; in others again, in ſix weeks;
"and I have known thoſe that have not
"retained their firſt ardours more than fif-
"teen or ſixteen days. There is no rule
"in ſuch caſes, a great deal is owing to
"conſtitution; but I believe there is ſcarce
"a parallel inſtance in the world, of a man
"who abandoned a woman with that pre-
"cipitation Mazulhim has done Zulica—
"Heavens! it is a thing not to be conceiv-
"ed—to quit you—to throw you off even
"at that time, when you had the moſt rea-
"ſon to expect joy and gratitude would
"have added freſh fuel to his flame!——
"Who could imagine that Zulica, the
"charming Zulica ſhould have yielded all
"the treaſures of her beauty, virtue, and
"reputation, only to have them ſcorned,
"forſaken, ridiculed!——Ah, Madam!"
added he, "I muſt again repeat, that you
"would have found more conſtancy in
"me."

To

To this Zulica, replied, that ſhe believed him; but as ſhe was reſolved never more to give way to an amorous inclination, the conſtancy of mankind was a matter of indifference to her; ſhe added, that the ſincere friendſhip ſhe had for him, made her wiſh the paſſion he had juſt now declared for her, was leſs real than he pretended; and that ſhe ſhould be extremely troubled he ſhould retain any deſires, that it was impoſſible for her ever to gratify.

"Yes," replied Naſſes with a dejected air, "I expected no leſs: I find in you all that "ſtrength of reſolution, which I always "dreaded, yet could not help admiring, "how unfortunate ſoever it made me; if "you were leſs worthy of eſteem, I ſhould "have leſs to fear; becauſe I might then "have imagined, that as you had loved "Mazulhim, it was not impoſſible but you "might be brought to love me alſo; this "is a hope I might have indulged, with-"out being guilty of preſumption with any

"other

"other woman; but unhappily for me, "you ſtand alone, above the ordinary "weakneſs of your ſex, and from what "you have done for a paſt lover, there is "no drawing any conſequences in favour "of a future one."

Zulica, who without doubt laughed within herſelf, at the miſtaken notion Naſſes ſeemed to have of her, aſſured him that he did her no more than juſtice; and then enlarged very much on the obligations ſhe had to nature, for having, ſhe ſaid, given her ſo little diſpoſitions for love; and that a peculiar coldneſs in all thoſe things, which other women took ſo much pleaſure in, had never been capable of alteration, even in ſpite of the tenderneſs Mazulhim had inſpired her with.

"So much the more unhappy for you, "Madam," ſaid Naſſes, "the more you "are ſenſible of your virtue, the more you "will find reaſon to complain. This very "inſenſibility will make the greateſt miſ-

"fortune

" fortune of your life—Mazulhim will be " ever preſent to you; the mortifying " manner in which he quitted you, will " never be out of your mind; the vexation " to have been thus treated, will haunt " you in your ſolitude, mingle with your " dreams, nor would company or all the " pleaſures in the world, be able to drive " it from you."

" What then can be done," ſaid ſhe, " to eraze ſo cruel an idea? I confeſs, in- " deed, that a ſecond engagement might " make me forget the former, and a more " worthy lover blot out from my heart the " image of the perfidious Mazulhim; but " if I could reſolve to hazard the misfor- " tunes, which might poſſibly be the con- " ſequence, I fear it would be impoſſible " for me to make the experiment.——No, " Naſſes, a woman that thinks as I do, can " never love more than once." " Ah, Ma- " dam!" cried he, " how falſe is that idea; " I have known thoſe that have entertained

" ſix

"six different passions, and have not been "the less esteemed. Besides, the cruelty "of your situation, sets you above rules; "and were your adventures known, no- "body could blame you for entertaining "ten lovers at a time." "That would "be extremely kind of the world indeed!" replied she, laughing. "You do not be- "lieve, however," said he, "that I ad- "vise you to it, since it would be suffici- "ent to make me die with grief, to be as- "sured, that you encouraged one."

"Ah!" said Zulica, "if once to be "possessed of a passion the most constant, "and most sincere that can be, is so cul- "pable in the eyes of the world, that we "can scarce escape the last contempt for "it, what must we expect when we pass "from one to another. Such is the mis- "fortune custom has imposed on women; "what in your sex is considered as gallan- "try, is in ours condemned as criminal."

"Such,

"Such, indeed, was the caſe in former "times," replied Naſſes, "but now we "judge otherwiſe; and if the fear of cen- "ſure was your ſole reſtraint, you might, "without any heſitation, yield yourſelf "up to love." "In the main," ſaid ſhe, "the maxim is juſt; *what right has any one to concern himſelf with what employs the heart of another?* For my part, I ſee no "reaſon for it." "Why then," anſwered he, "with that infinite ſhare of un- "derſtanding, which enables you to diſ- "tinguiſh between the falſe and the true, "will you ſacrifice yourſelf to prejudice, "like a perſon who cannot reaſon? You "ſeem determined to lament for your whole "life, your weakneſs for Mazulhim, ra- "ther than uſe any methods for your con- "ſolation—You ſay a woman ſhould love "but once, yet you are convinced, that "the principle on which you act is falſe; "and reſiſt your own reaſon, merely to "enjoy the noble pleaſure of afflicting your- "ſelf;

"ſelf; and this alſo apparently before the "world: for who will aſcribe your grief "to any other cauſe, than the loſs of Ma-"zulhim?"—"Is not this a valuable cha-"racter you would eſtabliſh for yourſelf?" "But I flatter myſelf," replied ſhe, "they "will not think thus of me."

"Perhaps, they will not tell you ſo," replied he; "and I dare anſwer alſo that "you will put it in the power of no con-"fidante, to divulge to them the motive; "I ſwear to you an inviolable ſecrecy;— "but, Madam, the change in your beha-"viour from the moſt ſprightly, to the "moſt melancholy, will be too much ho-"nour for Mazulhim, to permit him to "be ſilent; and whatever you may think, "every body will know it." "But where-"fore," cried ſhe?

"Heavens!" cried he, "can any one "be ſo ſtupidly unconcerned, as to behold "the amiable Zulica afflicted, without en-"deavouring to diſcover the reaſon of her

"being ſo? And though all their reſearches "ſhould be vain, think you that Mazul- "him himſelf, whoſe vanity would be but "too much flattered by your concern, "would not take care that the public "ſhould be made acquainted, that the loſs "of him alone, had drawn tears from the "fineſt eyes in the world?" "This, alas! "is but too true," ſaid ſhe; "and I am "convinced, I ought not to ſhew any teſ- "timonies of diſquiet." "Certainly," reſumed he; "and your reputation in this "point, depends wholly on yourſelf: but "after all, what have you to regret? If "Mazulhim ſhould again make an offer of "his paſſion, would you accept it?"—"Ac- "cept it! no," cried ſhe haſtily, "ſooner "would I receive the love of the laſt, and "moſt abject of mankind. Well then," ſaid he, "if nothing he could now do, "would have the power to reconcile him "to you, how ridiculous it is to repine at "the loſs of him!"

"Hold

"Hold a little, Emir," ſaid the ſultan, "and tell me, if theſe people are to talk "in this manner much longer?" Yes, "may it pleaſe your majeſty," replied Amanzei: "So much the worſe, by Ma-"homet," cried Schah Baham, "theſe are "diſcourſes that tire me moſt abominably. "I tell you, if you can ſuppreſs, or at leaſt "abridge them you will oblige me, and I "ſhall not be ungrateful." "Methinks "you wrong Amanzei to find fault with "him," ſaid the ſultaneſs, "this conver-"ſation ſo diſpleaſing to you, is not a uſe-"leſs diſſertation, but a fact itſelf——a "kind of dialogue, by which we diſcover "circumſtances of the greateſt conſe-"quence: Is it not Amanzei," cried ſhe, ſmiling? "Yes, Madam, replied he." "This manner of relating things," re-ſumed ſhe, "is very agreeable; it gives "a lively picture of the characters and hu-"mours of the perſons concerned, but it "is, however, ſubject to ſome inconveni-

" encies; for example, the mind is deſi-
" rous of comprehending every thing, and,
" to loſe no part of the elegant variety of
" expreſſion, is apt to dwell too much on
" trifles; fine perhaps; but not of conſe-
" quence enough to take off our attention
" from the main point, and by that means
" we loſe the thread of the ſtory. To know
" exactly how far a hiſtory ought to be il-
" luſtrated, is a nicety more difficult for
" the relater, than his hearers to conſider.
" The ſultan is in the wrong, to wiſh you
" ſhould come too haſtily to a concluſion,
" in the part where you now are. But
" you would be in the wrong in my opi-
" nion, and in that of all people of taſte,
" if the deſire of ſpeaking ſhould ſo far
" tranſport you, that you did not know
" how to keep ſilent, even in thoſe things
" moſt agreeable to yourſelf, when you
" could not repeat them without offending
" others."—" The ſultan in the wrong!"
ſaid Schah Baham; " that is ſoon ſaid,
" but I will maintain that this Amanzei
" here,

"here, is a babbler, and puts into other "people's mouths, what he would ſay "himſelf; if I know any thing, he intro- "duces theſe long converſations only to "ſhew his wit. This opinion mortifies "you," added he, turning to Amanzei, "but I ſpeak my mind, and if you would "confeſs the truth, I am ſure you would "own I am in the right." "Yes, moſt "mighty emperor," replied Amanzei; "and ſetting aſide the deference I owe to "your majeſty's opinion, I confeſs that I "have often found in myſelf, that fault "with which your majeſty reproaches me." "Correct it then," ſaid Schah Baham. "Were it as eaſy for me to correct, as to "convince myſelf of the neceſſity of cor- "rection," replied Amanzei, "your ma- "jeſty would have no reaſon to find fault."

Zulica, continued the new Emir, ſeem- ed touched with the arguments Naſſes had made uſe of. "I own," ſaid ſhe, "there "is a great deal of truth in what you ſay;

"and the ill-judging world might impute "my grief to a cauſe very different from "what it is; for in reality, it is not the "loſs of Mazulhim I lament, but my own "weakneſs in having given myſelf to a "man ſo unworthy of me." "It muſt be "owned indeed," replied Naſſes, "that "his behaviour ought not to render him "very amiable in your eyes; yet if you "judge without prejudice, you will find "he has ſome charms." "He is not well "made," cried Zulica diſdainfully. "I "cannot ſay he has altogether ſo fine a "turn," reſumed he, "notwithſtanding "that, I know no man more agreeable; "he has the fineſt ſhoulders, and the fineſt "legs in the world, an eaſy graceful air, "and a way of entertaining people gay, "lively, and amuſing." "Yes," anſwered Zulica, "I cannot deny but that he knows "well enough how to trifle away the time, "but I aſſure you he wants a great deal of "amuſing people of a good underſtand-

"ing;

"ing; and I look upon him to be only a "proud, vain-glorious, ſelf-ſufficient cox-"comb."—"I can pardon a little vanity, "Madam," interrupted Naſſes, "in a "man who has the honour to pleaſe you "—It is natural to us."

—"But Naſſes," cried ſhe, ſmiling, "for a man who ſays he loves me, and "would have me believe him, you preach "to me a doctrine little favourable to your "purpoſe. Diſeſteemed as Mazulhim is "at preſent by you, Madam," anſwered he, "yet is he leſs ſo than myſelf; and I "leſs hazard your diſpleaſure, by enter-"taining you with diſcourſes on a man "whom you have tenderly loved, than I "ſhould do by ſpeaking of one whom I "fear you never will love. I ſee this too "happy rival ſtill ſo much takes up your "heart, that I never mention his name, "but your eyes overflow with tears.—— "Yes, Madam," added he, "he is ſtill "dear to you—you but in vain endeavour

" to conceal from me the affection you
" have for him——Ah, if it be poſſible,
" ceaſe to weep for his loſs while I am pre-
" ſent—your grief pierces me to the ſoul
" ——I cannot ſee you thus, without feel-
" ing the moſt dreadful emotions."

Zulica, who for ſome time paſt, had not the leaſt propenſity to weep, on hearing him ſpeak in this manner, thought herſelf obliged to call forth ſome new tears. Naſſes, who diverted himſelf with the effect his management had on her, ſuffered her to remain ſome minutes in this affected poſture; but not to loſe time, he amuſed himſelf with kiſſing her neck and breaſt, while ſhe ſeemed too much overwhelmed in ſorrow, to regard what he did; and it was not till after he had taken a good many liberties of that kind, that ſhe ſeemed enough recovered to be ſenſible of his boldneſs; at laſt putting him gently from her, " Ah, Naſſes," cried ſhe, " this is a freedom which offends me."
" Indeed!" replied he, " in my opinion

" you

"you ought to take it rather as a favour.
"—Look on me then," added he, perceiving ſhe ſtill held her handkerchief before her face, "when I behold thoſe lovely eyes"—"No, no," "anſwered ſhe, "they are too full of tears to be lovely;" "without your tears," reſumed he, "you "would to me appear leſs charming."

"But hear me," continued he, "the "condition I ſee you in, excites in me the "tendereſt compaſſion, and obliges me to "leave nothing unattempted, that might "contribute to your relief.——I have al-"ready proved the neceſſity, there is for "you to receive a new impreſſion; and I "would now prove alſo, that I ought to "be the happy man, who ſhould eraze "from your breaſt all memory of the un-"grateful Mazulhim." "I fear," replied ſhe, "you are, alas! but too ſuc-"ceſsful." "That I ſhall ſoon diſcover," ſaid he. "In the firſt place, you confeſs "that you have hated me without a cauſe;

"this, Madam, was an injuſtice, which "you can no way atone, but by loving me "with paſſion." Zulica could not contain herſelf from laughing, to hear him argue in ſo pleaſant a manner; but was not enough diſpleaſed with it, to offer any interruption; "moreover," continued he, "I love "you, it is eaſy for you to perceive I do, and "perhaps you may even be inſpired with a "paſſion, which you do not approve: ne-"ver will you find a man ſo much diſpoſed "as I am, to love you with all the tender-"neſs you merit.

"Whether we have cauſe or not, is a "rule among our ſex to think ill of wo-"men. We perſuade ourſelves that they "are neither faithful, nor conſtant, and on "that foundation imagine we owe them "neither fidelity nor conſtancy. For this "reaſon, we ſeldom find any laſting paſ-"ſion. To fix the heart therefore, by na-"ture roving, and made more ſo by an "appearance of reaſon, one ought to make

"choice

"choice of a woman, who we are certain "deſerves a ſincere attachment; we ſhould "examine her character, her humour, her "way of life; and in proportion to thoſe, "regulate how far ſhe ought to be eſteem-"ed; for where judgment does not ap-"prove, love cannot long ſubſiſt; and it is "abſolutely neceſſary, that a ſtrict enquiry "ſhould be made." "Well then," interrupted Zulica, "what hinders you?" ——"Becauſe, Madam," anſwered he, "it takes up too much time. While we "are ſeriouſly employed in endeavouring "to diſcover, whether the object of our "affection merits our fidelity, ſhe fre-"quently is before-hand with us in in-"conſtancy; and that is ſo cruel an "affliction to us, that we chuſe to prevent "it by quitting her, before we know whe-"ther ſhe merits it or not." "But," cried Zulica, "does not all this make againſt "yourſelves?"

"You ſhall hear, Madam," replied he; "but muſt that ſame handkerchief be eternally before your eyes?" Have I not "ſeen you already," ſaid ſhe? "Not enough," reſumed he; "and I will not "ſpeak another word, while that ſcreen "remains between us——remove it, or I "will try to hate you, as much as you "have hated me."

Zulica complied with his requeſt, and having withdrawn the handkerchief, ſmiled and looked on him with a good deal of tenderneſs: "Proceed then," ſaid ſhe, leaning careleſsly towards him; "yes," cried he, catching her in his arms, "doubt "not but I ſhall proceed. After what I "have ſeen of you here," purſued he, "the examination I have mentioned is "needleſs; you have acquired all my eſteem, and conſequently doubled my "love; another could not love you, as I "love you; he could ſee and admire only "the charms of your perſon; the beau-

"ties

"ties of your ſoul, would be ſtrangers to "him, ſince none but myſelf have had the "opportunity of diſcovering the ſublimi- "ty, the purity, the delicacy of your ſen- "timents; you may ſay indeed, he might "be acquainted with them by your acti- "ons——Ah, Madam! there are many "Mazulhims; and do you think a man, "giddy, raſh and inconſiderate, eſpecially "reſpecting women, in whom he never "finds any thing but to increaſe his con- "tempt, becauſe he will never do them "the honour to examine what virtues "they have;—do you think, I ſay, that "ſuch a man would perceive thoſe things "in you, which would ſecure his eſteem? "Or would he not rather accuſe you of "falſifying your character, and making a "ſhew of virtues, you were far from poſ- "ſeſſing?" "Yes," ſaid ſhe, "I believe "it; for few men are ſo judicious as "you."

Naſſes,

Naſſes, to teſtify his gratitude for this praiſe, was going to kiſs her hand; but her lips being nearer to him, he thought proper to make his acknowledgments on them.—"Ah, Naſſes," cried ſhe, with a melting accent, "we ſhall quarrel"—"you will "find then," continued he, without taking notice of this little menace, "that "ſince I am the man who moſt eſteems "you, and who has the moſt reaſon to do "ſo, I ought alſo to be the only man "whom you can love." "Love is too "dangerous," anſwered ſhe." "That is "an old maxim of the opera," ſaid he, "ſo thread-bare, ſo worn out, that it "would not bear now a-days the being in-"ſerted in a madrigal; but how danger-"ous ſoever the paſſion might be with "others, it ought not to be eſteemed ſo "with me."

—"But why will nothing but my love "content you?" ſaid ſhe, "have not I "already promiſed you my friendſhip?"—

"I

"I cannot deny," anſwered he, "but "that you are generous beyond my hopes; "and if I loved you with a common paſ- "ſion, I might content myſelf with that, "or perhaps with leſs than what you of- "fer; but, Zulica, the ſentiments you "have inſpired me with, can be repaid "only by the moſt tender return on your "part; and I ſwear therefore to neglect "nothing, that may excite in you, all the "ardour which a flame like mine de- "mands;" "and I alſo ſwear," cried ſhe, "to neglect nothing that may defend me "from it." "You think then," reſumed he, "it is neceſſary for you to be cautious "with me?—Why this is half a victory, "it proves you fear yourſelf, and look on "me as dangerous!——Indeed you have "reaſon, loving you with the violence I do, "and knowing the ſincerity of your ſoul "—with a woman of leſs virtue, I could "not ſo much depend on my conqueſt." —"Surely," replied ſhe, "the more vir-

"tue

"tue I have, the more I ſhall reſiſt." "Quite the contrary," ſaid he, "it is only "coquets who are difficult to gain; they "eaſily believe themſelves beloved, but are "rarely touched with reciprocal tender-"neſs; whereas a woman of ſenſe and ge-"neroſity, cannot be long ungrateful; "her gentle ſoul ſympathizes with the "pains ſhe gives, and is eaſily prevail-"ed upon to yield." "I cannot be-"lieve that," ſaid Zulica. "Nothing is "more true," anſwered he, "I will give "you an example——Tell me with that "amiable ſincerity, which to me is one of "your greateſt charms, do you doubt of "my affection?" "I have already ſuffer-"ed ſo much by my fooliſh credulity," replied ſhe, "that I believe it will be a "long time, before you can perſuade me "to aſſure myſelf of ſuch a thing." "But "Mazulhim apart," cried he, what do "you think?" "I think," anſwered ſhe, "that you do not hate me." Here Naſſes

ſaid

ſaid many other things to engage her to ſpeak more plain, and at leaſt drew from her, that ſhe believed he loved her. "Well "then," ſaid he, "am I odious to you?" "Odious!" cried ſhe, "no certainly: I "would willingly be indifferent, but I "would not be unjuſt."

"You believe then that I love you," purſued he; "you own I am not hateful to "you, and yet you imagine yourſelf able "to reſiſt me for a long time! How can "Zulica, whoſe character is truth itſelf, "and whoſe own wiſhes I ſee plead ſtrong "in my favour, flatter herſelf with the "belief, ſhe can ſwerve ſo far from what "ſhe was born with, as to render me and "herſelf unhappy, merely for the ſake of "form——No, charming woman, no—I "have a better opinion of you, than you "have of yourſelf—you have not vanity "to glory in a lover's pains—you have not "the perfidious artifice to protract my ex-"pectations, and by turns, to raiſe and

"to

"to depreſs my hopes——you have not ſo "little underſtanding, as to diminiſh the "value of your favours, by beſtowing them "with a ſparing hand; the moment I "am happy enough to move you to com-"paſſion, will be that in which I ſhall die "with pleaſure in your arms; and that "charming mouth, added he with tranſ-"port"—

"Very good," interrupted the ſultan, "very good—you have eaſed me of a great "deal of diſquiet—by my faith, I begun to "think, they would never have come to "a concluſion—O, what a fooliſh crea-"ture is this ſame Zulica with her airs!" "In effect," ſaid the ſultaneſs, "it muſt "be allowed that favours ſhould not be too "long delayed——Reſiſt an hour! why "it is beyond example!" "Very true," reſumed the ſultan, "and it has been as "tireſome to me, as if it had laſted fifteen "days——and if Amanzei had retarded it "ever ſo little longer, I ſhould have died

"of

" of the vapours; but before that, it might
" have coſt him his life, I might have
" taught him what it was to make a crown-
" ed head die of the ſpleen."

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Not very amuſing for thoſe who are tried with the foregoing.

BY the ſilence I obſerved, and with which your majeſty was ſo well pleaſed, ſaid Amanzei the next day, I judged that Naſſes hindered Zulica from ſpeaking; and that Zulica hindered Naſſes from going on. "Ah, Naſſes!" cried ſhe, as well as ſhe could, "Naſſes, Do you conſider "what you do?—If you love me"—

The more this adventurous lover feared the reproaches of Zulica, the leſs he left her at liberty to make them. Never till that moment was I convinced how advantageous it is to be obſtinate with women. "But hear me, Naſſes," ſaid Zulica, "hear "me! Are you reſolved to make me hate "you?"

All

All words pronounced with a feeble accent, and interrupted, or incoherent, loſe their force, and impoſe not on the hearer. Zulica ſoon found it was to no purpoſe to ſpeak to a man loſt in his tranſports, and to whom ſhe had already vainly made uſe of the fineſt arguments in the world:—all ſhe could do, ſhe had done—after having provided againſt the enterprizes of Naſſes, ſhe was out of all fear, and waited patiently till he ſhould be in a condition to hear the reproaches ſhe prepared for his impertinence.

Naſſes, either to obtain more eaſily his pardon, pretended to be, or was in effect, ſo overcome by his late extacies, that he fell motionleſs on the boſom of Zulica, and remained quite inſenſible to every thing.

This gave new perplexity to his miſtreſs; for what would it have availed her to ſpeak to a man that could not hear? Her enforced ſilence however in that moment was leſs painful to her, becauſe, according to all appearance,

appearance, Naſſes was not in a ſtate which would allow him to make any commentaries on it. She endeavoured notwithſtanding to withdraw herſelf from his embraces; but ſhe was either too weak, or he even in this abſence of his ſenſes, too potent for her to ſucceed.

When he recovered, nothing could be more tender than his air——He juſt lifted up his eyes, all languiſhing on the face of Zulica, then caſt them down again with ſo profound a ſigh, that far from giving her any opportunity of teſtifying the reſentment ſhe intended, ſhe began, in ſpite of her natural inſenſibility, to be touched, and even to partake of his tranſports. This virtuous perſon had been loſt, if Naſſes had perceived the emotions with which ſhe was agitated; but not being then in a ſtate to do ſo, ſhe had time to ſuppreſs or diſguiſe them; and when he once more came to himſelf, and preſſed her hand fondly to his breaſt, "Naſſes," cried ſhe, in an angry tone,

tone, "Is it by ſuch a behaviour you think "to make yourſelf beloved?"

Naſſes excuſed the liberties he had taken, by imputing them to the force of his paſſion, which he ſaid was too great to be reſtrained: Zulica on the other hand maintained, that love when ſincere, was always accompanied with reſpect; and that freedoms of the kind he had taken, were never made uſe of but with women worthy of contempt. He again aſſerted, that ſuch ſtrong deſires were never felt for thoſe women for whom men wanted reſpect; and that nothing could more prove the greatneſs of his, than what ſhe ſo obſtinately blamed in him.

"If I had leſs eſteem for you," purſued he, "I ſhould have aſked you to grant thoſe li-"berties which I raviſhed from you; and "how trifling ſoever the favours are, that "I have ſeized, I am not ignorant you would "have refuſed them to me——I very well "knew I muſt owe to myſelf whatever I

"obtained

"obtained from you—The more one ad-
"mires a woman, the more one is obliged
"to appear guilty of too much boldneſs.
"—Be aſſured, amiable Zulica, of the
"truth of this maxim." "I do not be-
"lieve a word of it," anſwered ſhe; "but
"though it really were ſo, it is ſtill an
"eſtabliſhed rule, that the firſt declara-
"tion of a paſſion ought to be accompa-
"nied with a behaviour very different from
"what you have ſhewn."

"Suppoſe," ſaid Naſſes, "I had without
"any ceremony, or even without uttering a
"ſyllable of my paſſion, ſnatched all the
"favours in my power; ſuch a proceed-
"ing would even have teſtified my reſpect,
"for which you ought to have thanked me."

"Oh, heavens!" cried ſhe; "ſure
"never was any opinion ſo fantaſti-
"cal!" Fantaſtical as you may call
"it," reſumed he, "it is yet found-
"ed on the ſoundeſt reaſoning; and I
"doubt not but to make you ſenſible it is
"ſo,

"ſo, not only becauſe you have a capa-
"city about what is common, but alſo be-
"cauſe you poſſeſs an infinity of juſtice;
"a virtue ſo rare in your ſex, that one can
"never too much applaud you for it."
"I am not to he ſeduced by this com-
"pliment," ſaid ſhe; "and ſhall act as
"I ought to do in this affair." "I am
"very unhappy," anſwered he, "to find
"you ſo little ſenſible of the obliging
"things I ſay to you." "In a word,
"Naſſes," reſumed ſhe, interrupting him,
"before one ſuffers certain liberties, one
"ſhould at leaſt enjoy the ſatisfaction
"of having been perſuaded. This I think
"you will at leaſt grant."

"I underſtand you, Madam," ſaid he;
"it muſt be length of time—I muſt ſuf-
"fer torments before I am permitted to
"taſte of bliſs——It ſhall be ſo——I will
"make you love me without the eſſen-
"tials which alone ought to convince
"you I am deſerving of ſo great a bleſ-

"ſing; you ſhall receive aſſiduities from "me: the world ſhall know how much I "adore you, and I will omit no tender "fooleries to make public the ſentiments "I have for you." "What is this?" cried Zulica, "you are a ſtrange man! "—It is your reſpect for me that makes "you treat me with an impertinence which "I ought never to pardon in you!—It is "your infinite circumſpection in every "thing that regards me, that authorizes "a roughneſs ſcarce to be borne by a wo-"man the leaſt worthy of civility.—In fine, "you do a thouſand things diſreſpectful to "me; and yet it is I who am to blame. Do "me the favour to explain how all this "can be?" "If you were more expe-"rienced in love," replied he, "you "would ſpare me all theſe explanations; "but how troubleſome ſoever it is to me, "I had a thouſand times rather take the "pains to give you leſſons, than to find "you were ſo well inſtructed, as to have

"no

"no occaſion for them. Are you to learn, "that the favours of a woman to her lo-"ver are of leſs ill conſequence to her re-"putation, than the length of time ſhe "makes him wait for them? Do you be-"lieve it poſſible for me to love you, with-"out my cares to pleaſe you being taken "notice of by the public?——Could "I become melancholy, without its be-"ing imputed to your rigour? In fine, "for it muſt come to that at laſt, you will "conſent to make me happy, and then, in "ſpite of all the precautions we could "take, would not the tender familiarity "between us, be eaſily traced in our "faces?"

Zulica by her ſilence, and a certain attention in her looks, ſeemed not wholly to diſapprove of what he ſaid on this head. "You ſee, therefore," purſued he, "that "when I preſs you to render me immedi-"ately happy, it is more for your ſake, "than for my own, that I require it; for

" in following my advice, if you ſave me " the anxiety of a long expectation, you " will avoid the inquiſitive cenſures which " are always made on the diſcovery of a " new amour. Beſides—in the ſituation " we long have been in towards each o- " ther, I cannot without divulging all, " ſhew any marks of eſteem for you; where- " as, if you conſent to my wiſhes, we may " with all the ſecurity imaginable, impoſe " on the world: perſuaded of your aver- " ſion for me, nobody will ſuppoſe you " could ſo ſwiftly paſs from one extreme " to the other; and when the firſt hurry " of our tranſports are over, we may by " degrees, and with leſs difficulty, ſeem to " enter into a reconciliation, which may " afterwards appear to be improved gradu- " ally into friendſhip.

" For example; whenever we happen to " meet at court, or at the drawing-room of " the firſt princeſs, you may take ſome oc- " caſion to treat me with politeneſs, I ſhall

" anſwer

"answer what you say with the great-
"est complaisance; then, as soon as you
"turn away, express to the person who
"stands nearest me, the ambition I have
"to be of the number of your acquaint-
"ance——after this, I shall propose to
"some friend to introduce me to your
"house; he shall ask your permission in
"form, and you may grant it with a seem-
"ing indifference. When I have paid
"you a visit, I shall praise, wherever I
"go, the charms of your conversation, and
"the misfortune I had of being so long
"denied the happiness of it. There will
"be no occasion to make a secret after
"this of our seeing each other frequently;
"our intimacy will appear natural, and
"gradually growing into that friendship,
"which I flatter myself with the hopes of
"enjoying for a long time, and the plea-
"sures of our intimacy will be heighten-
"ed by being concealed from public cen-
"sure."

"But yet," replied Zulica, after having paused a little, "I cannot conquer "my apprehensions of your inconstancy, "which a premature gratification of your "wishes would in some measure excuse. "I own that it would be very agreeable to "me be linked with you in the strictest "ties of confidence and esteem; a friend-"ship built on such foundation is the "more delightful as it is rarely to be found. "—Nay, I will go farther, and tell you, "that I am not averse to love you, if you "would demand no more of me, than the "confession of my tenderness."

"Such a self-denial," said he, "would "be more difficult to put in practice "on your account, than of that of any "other woman in the world; yet, I con-"fess, that the little you are pleased to "grant, is infinitely more valuable than "the utmost favours in the power of your "whole sex beside to bestow——But still, "O Zulica! the very possessing so much,

"must

" muſt make me languiſh for more.——If " you are indeed my friend, remember that " friendſhip is like love unbounded, and " has no reſerve.—Make then the happi- " neſs of a man who adores you, who feels " for you a paſſion which never can change " from what it is." " If you could li- " mit your deſires," anſwered ſhe, affect- ing a childiſh tone; " and if what one " granted you, would not give you a kind " of privilege to be unreaſonable, and to " demand more than one is willing to be- " ſtow, one would try to make you leſs " wretched, but you ſeem ſo violent, that " —" no, Zulica," cried he, haſtily in- terrupting her, " you have nothing to fear " from me; I ſhall always be obedient to " your commands."

On his making this promiſe, which Zu- lica knew very well the danger of accept- ing, though ſhe ſeemed to take it literally, ſhe leaned careleſsly towards him, with a look which had nothing in it of the auſtere.

He availed himſelf of the hint, and throwing himſelf impetuouſly upon her, gave a looſe to all the pleaſures ſhe now no longer oppoſed. "Ah, Zulica!" cried he preſently after, "it is only to your complai-"ſance I owe theſe bliſsful moments; and "will you not ſuffer that ſomething ſhall "be done for you, as is already done for "me?"

Zulica made no reply; but Naſſes complained no more. Soon he inſpired her ſoul with all the fire that poſſeſſed his own—ſoon he forgot the promiſe he had made, and ſhe remembered not that ſhe had exacted it. If ſhe attempted to chide him, it was in ſuch a manner, as but the more emboldened him to proceed.—She ſighed indeed, but not with grief; and Naſſes perceiving to what point ſhe was arrived, took care not to loſe the precious criſis. "Ah, "Naſſes!" cried ſhe, in the moſt melting accent, "you do not love me."

If the fears of Zulica had been as real as ſhe pretended, it was apparent to me, that the tranſports of her love would have diſſipated them in a ſhort time. Naſſes being pretty well aſſured that he had convinced her of his ardour, judged it improper to loſe, in anſwering her, moments which were employed in giving her yet *ſtronger* confirmations, and were more pleaſing than the moſt elegant diſcourſe he could have made. Zulica was far from being offended at his ſilence, and immediately (for it would be wrong to make your majeſty loſe ſight of the moſt important things) ſhe ſeemed entirely to have baniſhed all thoſe little ſuſpicions which ſhe now thought ſhe could not retain, without doing a mortal injury to Naſſes.—Other ideas of a more delightful nature ſucceeded:——ſhe would have ſpoke, but was able to utter no more than ſome incoherent words, which ſerved to expreſs the ſoft confuſion of her ſoul.

When it was over, Naſſes threw himſelf on his knees. "Ah! leave me," ſaid ſhe, hiding one of her eyes, and looking fondly on him with the other. "What!" cried he, ſeeming to be ſurprized, "have "I had the misfortune to diſpleaſe you; "and is it poſſible you have any thing to "accuſe me of? If I do not accuſe myſelf," anſwered ſhe, "it is not that I ought not "to do ſo." "Of what would you accuſe "yourſelf," demanded he? "Were you not "ſufficiently tired with that cruel reſiſt-"ance which you have already made?" "I know," ſaid ſhe, "that many women "would have yielded ſooner; but I think "I ought to have reſiſted much longer." She then declined her head upon his boſom; and he ſtooping down, not to loſe the pleaſure of beholding her, ſaw that ſhe looked upon him with a languiſhment, which expreſſed her own deſires, and at the ſame time re-animated his. "Do you love me, "Zulica?" ſaid Naſſes, with as much

tenderne[ſs]

tenderneſs, as if he had loved her himſelf. "Ah, Naſſes!" anſwered ſhe, "what "pleaſure can you take in hearing a con-"feſſion, which the violence of your paſ-"ſion has already extorted from me? Will "you not leave me any thing ſtill to ſay to "you?" "No, Zulica," cried he, "with-"out that charming confeſſion I could not "be completely bleſt——without that I "ſhould conſider myſelf only as a raviſher "of the favours I have enjoyed—do not then "ſuffer me to make ſo cruel a reflection "on what I would wiſh never to remem-"ber but with tranſport." "Yes, Naſ-"ſes," ſaid ſhe, with a gentle ſigh and preſſure of his hand, "I do love you."

Naſſes was going to make Zulica a proper acknowledgment, when the ſlave of Mazulhim brought in ſupper——"I believed as "much," cried the ſultan, haſtily interrupting Amanzei," "theſe rogues of va-"lets never come, but when we have leaſt "occaſion for their preſence. Could he

" not have foreſeen, that his coming juſt " when Naſſes and Zulica were in this " good underſtanding, would have diſpleaſ- " ed me?—He muſt be ſo fooliſh as to in- " terrupt the very diſcourſe I took the " moſt delight in hearing." " I have been " ſurprized indeed," ſaid the ſultaneſs, " that you have been ſilent ſo long." " Why " I did not care to delay the recital," an- ſwered the ſultan, " I wanted to hear how " all would end. I like this part of your " tale very well," continued he, turning to Amanzei—" this is what one may truly " call a touching ſituation; I have had " tears in my eyes twenty times, and they " are not dry yet." " What! have you " wept at it?" cried the ſultaneſs. " Why " not?" replied he, " it is ſtrongly in- " tereſting, or I am ſtrongly deceived. It " is to me a kind of tragedy; and if it did " not make you weep, it is becauſe you " have not a heart capable of being af- " fected."

"fected." When the ſultan had ſpoken theſe words, which he looked upon as a ſevere reflection againſt the ſultaneſs, he ordered Amanzei, with an air that expreſſed his ſatisfaction, to proceed.

Naſſes ſighed, purſued Amanzei, to ſee himſelf interrupted. Not that he was really in love, but he had that impatience, that ardour, which without being in love, produces in us emotions which reſemble it, and which the women always take for ſymptoms of a true paſſion, either as they find it neceſſary to ſeem to be deceived by us, or becauſe in truth they know no better. Zulica imputed the diſorder ſhe obſerved in Naſſes, entirely to the force of her charms, and had all the gratitude imaginable; but to ſupport the character ſhe had given herſelf of a reſerved woman, ſhe made ſigns to him to behave with circumſpection before the ſlave; and with this precaution, ſat down to table.

After

"After ſupper,—"Hold! hold!" cried Schah Baham," "I would feign, that is, "if you pleaſe, ſee them at ſupper. I "love table-talk of all things." "Was "there ever any thing ſo inconſiſtent," ſaid the ſultaneſs to him, "as your hu- "mour in this particular! Have not you "been in the utmoſt impatience, and quite "tired with diſcourſes abſolutely neceſſary "for underſtanding the ſtory? And now "you are eager to hear what perhaps has "no relation to it, and would only ſerve "to prolong it." "Well," replied the ſultan; "and if I have a mind to be in- "conſiſtent, is there any one here ſhall "hinder me?—Let us ſee who dares!—I "believe every one knows, that a ſultan "is to reaſon as he pleaſes; and that all "my anceſtors had this privilege. I muſt "tell you, Madam, that no female-wit "had ever the honour of hindering them "from ſpeaking as they thought fit.—My "grandmother, Scheharazade, with whom

"you

"you will not have the aſſurance to com-
"pare yourſelf, never took upon her to
"contradict Schah Riar, my grandfather,
"ſon of Schah-Mamoun, who begot
"Schah-Techni, of whom——But I only
"inſiſt upon this," continued he more moderately, "to let you ſee I know my
"genealogy, and not to contradict any-
"body:—So you may proceed, Amanzei."

As ſoon as they were at table, reſumed Amanzei, "I am thinking," ſaid Zulica, "by what trifling circumſtances the moſt
"remarkable accidents of our lives are
"frequently brought about. What would
"one ſay of a woman, who in a night's
"time ſhould love with all the extremity
"of paſſion, a man ſhe never thought of
"before; nay, even one ſhe had hated?
"Would you not think ſuch a thing im-
"poſſible? yet nothing is more ſure than
"that it has happened." "I ſhould be
"very ſorry if it never had happened,"

anſwered

anſwered Naſſes; "but indeed nothing is "more common, than for your ſex to paſs "from the extremity of one paſſion to an- "other—the warmth of the imagination "being indeed the foundation of either "loving or hating with vehemence." "Nevertheleſs," ſaid Zulica, "you will "find a great many who will maintain "there is nothing in ſympathy."

"But do you know," replied Naſſes, "what ſort of people theſe are who main- "tain ſuch a doctrine? they are either "very young people, who know nothing "of the world, or prudes, whoſe cold un- "active minds are inflamed but by de- "grees, and receive no paſſion but with "precaution. And ſurely that heart muſt "be purchaſed at a dear rate, where one "always finds more of compunction than "of tenderneſs; and which indeed one "can never *enjoy*." "Well," cried Zulica, "theſe women, ridiculous as you "deſcribe

"describe them, are very numerous; and "it is not long since I myself was one of "them."

"You!" replied Nasses, "Why are "you ignorant that you are governed by "prejudice as much as any one can be?" "That may be," said she; "but for all "that, I believe in sympathy."

"That is enough for me," resumed he; "and indeed nothing is more certain. "Nay, I even knew a woman that is so "subject to it, that the fit comes on her "three or four times in one day." "Ah! "Nasses!" cried Zulica, "that is not "possible." "Not possible!" interrupted he, "if you do not believe it to be pos-"sible, nay, even common, you deceive "yourself. Do not you know, that a "woman who has the misfortune to have "an amorous inclination, cannot answer "for herself one moment? Suppose now, "you could not help loving me, what "would you do?" "Why, I must love

"you,"

" you," anſwered ſhe. " Well then, " ſuppoſe farther," continued he, " a wo- " man ſhould be under a neceſſity of lov- " ing three or four men." " That would " be a ſad ſituation indeed," replied ſhe. " I am of your mind," rejoined Naſſes; " but what would you have her do? She " cannot fly from her own heart—In vain " ſhe ſeeks relief in walking, ſitting, " reading; the object that has awakened " her deſires, is ever preſent to her eyes " —Her paſſion is inflamed by the reſiſt- " ance ſhe makes, and the wild wiſhes " that have taken poſſeſſion of her ſoul, " far from being abated become more un- " governable." But," cried Zulica, ſeem- ing to have been meditating on what he ſaid, " to love four!" " Since the num- " ber ſhocks you," replied he, " I will " take away two." " Aye, that is more " probable," returned ſhe; " and yet," ſaid he, " how ſtrongly have you inveighed " againſt loving more than one!" Huſh," cried

cried ſhe, ſmiling, "if you go about to "renew any of your old arguments, I "ſhall make you the ſame anſwers." "No, no," ſaid he, "you are by nature "ſincere, wholly devoid of artifice; you "love me alſo enough to conceal from "me nothing of your thoughts; and I "eſteem you the more, as there are ſo few "women of the ſame character."

With this, and ſuch like converſation, little intereſting, or worthy of relating, they paſt the time of ſupper. But when the cloth was taken away, and Naſſes ſaw himſelf once more alone with Zulica, all his fires ſeemed to be re-kindled: he threw himſelf at her feet, and looking up to her face with the moſt tender tranſport, "Ah! "Zulica!" cried he, "Do you love "me?" "Have I not enough confeſſed "it," replied ſhe, in a languiſhing tone? —"Heavens!" purſued he, riſing and catching her in his arms, "can I hear it "too often; and can you too much prove "it?"

" it?" Ah, Naſſes!" exclaimed ſhe; ſuffering herſelf to fall with him upon me, " how do you triumph over my weak-" neſs!"

" Ah! the devil!" cried the ſultan; " ſhe permits him to do what he will now? " That is not bad! I believe ſhe would " not have been pleaſed if he had let her " alone. The women are ſtrange crea-" tures; they never know what they would " be at. One is always at a loſs how to " behave with them." " How angry you " are!" ſaid the ſultaneſs, " what a tor-" rent of ſatire have you poured out upon " us!" " No," replied the ſultan, " it " is without anger I ſay all this. To find " out, that women are ridiculous, is there " a neceſſity to be angry with them?" " You are grown an excellent wit," reſumed the ſultaneſs; " and I wiſh that " you who have hated all men of wit, are " not in danger of becoming one of them." " It is this Zulica that vexes me," replied the

the ſultan;" "I do not love theſe ill-"timed ceremonies." "If your majeſty "is out of humour with her," ſaid Amanzei, "it will not be long."

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

AFTER having ſaid theſe few words which diſpleaſed your majeſty, Zulica was ſilent, continued Amanzei; "do "you believe," cried Naſſes to her, "that "Mazulhim loved you more than I do?" "He praiſed me more," anſwered ſhe; "but you ſeem to love me better." "I "will leave you no room to doubt of my "tenderneſs," reſumed he; "and you "will ſoon ſee how much Mazulhim is "inferior to me in ſentiment."

"Ah, how!" cried ſhe, "how!"—— Naſſes would not permit her to proceed; and ſhe complained not of the interruption ——"Ah! Naſſes," ſaid ſhe ſoon after, "how worthy are you of being loved!" Naſſes replied not to this compliment, as ſuppoſing it made rather to encourage his future good behaviour, than as a reward for

for the preſent: he had before *ſoftened* Zulica, but he now *aſtoniſhed* her, and ſhe conceived for him a reſpect, the motive of which was pleaſant enough; and could not but be flattering to a man who knew it was not the effect of prepoſſeſſion, but of proof. Naſſes, ſufficiently ſatisfied with himſelf, thought he might ſuſpend for a moment the admiration he had cauſed in Zulica. Having triumphed over her, his deſigns were accompliſhed. He too tell knew her to regard, or to wiſh to keep the conqueſt he had made. The favours ſhe had allowed him, far from diminiſhing the diſlike he before had for her, augmented it; and he now entertained that kind of contempt for her, which is impoſſible to be diſſembled, and which does not admit of treating the perſon who excites it, even with common civility. In this diſpoſition of mind he thought, all being over, he could not too ſoon ſhew the impreſſion that a perfect acquaintance

quaintance with her virtues had made on him.

"You perceive then," ſaid he, "that I "do not know how to praiſe you ſo well "as Mazulhim?" "Yes," replied ſhe, "but I perceive at the ſame time, that you "know how to love me better than him." "That," cried he, "is a diſtinction "which I cannot comprehend; pray what "value do you actually attach to the word "love?" "Why it is"—replied ſhe—"I "do not know it enough to ſay—It is not "on that I pretend to ſpeak— but where-"fore do you, who appear to love me ſo "well, aſk me what it is?" "If I aſk," ſaid he, "it is not becauſe I am ignorant; "but as every one defines this paſſion ac-"cording to his own opinion, I would "gladly hear what notions you have of it, "particularly what you mean by ſaying "that I love you better, than Mazulhim "could love you. I cannot conceive the "difference you put between us, unleſs

"you

"you tell me in what it conſiſts."
"Why," anſwered ſhe, affecting to bluſh,
"it is becauſe his ſpirits are exhauſted."

"His ſpirits exhauſted!" cried he, "that
"is an expreſſion, which according to my
"underſtanding conveys no determined
"meaning; in a length of paſſion, the ſpi-
"rits doubtleſs are exhauſted, but that
"could not be the caſe with you and Ma-
"zulhim; you were a new object, both
"to his eyes and imagination; therefore
"your words cannot be taken in that
"ſenſe." "I tell you, nevertheleſs," an-
ſwered ſhe, "that I am certain there are
"few men, if any, that are leſs made for
"love than Mazulhim; but aſk me no
"farther queſtions on this matter, for I
"neither can, nor will ſay any more."

"Oh, I begin to underſtand you," cried Naſſes; "but indeed I cannot know Ma-
"zulhim, by the character you give of
"him." "And yet, methinks," reſumed ſhe, "I have told you nothing." "Your

"pardon, Madam," ſaid he, "it is eaſy to "gueſs what kind of idea you would give "of a man, when you ſay his ſpirits "are exhauſted.—The meaning is indeed "artfully couched in the modeſty of the "phraſe, but it is intelligible, and I am "greatly ſurprized to find you had that "reaſon to complain of him." "I com-"plain not," ſaid ſhe, "but ſince you "will needs know my thoughts, and I am "too ſincere to hide them from you, I "muſt tell you, that I was very much ſur-"prized myſelf."—"Ah ha?" cried he, "what you have found"——"it is aſto-"niſhing!" reſumed ſhe, "at leaſt I think "ſo."—

"But," continued ſhe laughing, "I "ſhall report better of you; experience "has now given me a great light into theſe "affairs"—"Experience or not," replied he, "a lover ſhould leave his miſtreſs "nothing farther to deſire—this is an "eſtabliſhed maxim; but I once more "proteſt,

"protest, that I am amazed to hear what "you tell me of Mazulhim—Mazulhim "of whom I have heard such wonders, "such incredible things." "It was "perhaps himself that related them to "you," interrupted Zulica, with a malicious smile. "No," answered he, "he "never spoke to me concerning them, "and I think him extremely modest "on this point." "As for modesty," cried she, more scornfully than before, "he "knows not what it is, but perhaps, some-"times before he is aware, he may do him-"self justice."

"Madam, Madam," said Nasses, "the "reputation Mazulhim has among the la-"dies, could not be established without "good foundation; and I can never be-"lieve, that a man of whom all the wo-"men of Agra think well, can be in rea-"lity so little worthy of their esteem." "Why, do you suppose," resumed she, "that a woman displeased with Mazul-

" him, for the inſenſibility I have hinted
" would declare for what reaſon ſhe was
" diſpleaſed?" " Yes, certainly," an-
ſwered he; " ſhe would not perhaps pro-
" claim it to all the world, but ſhe would
" confide the ſecret in one at leaſt——
" are not you an example?—have you not
" told it to me?—I am not ignorant in-
" deed that I deſerve this confidence, in
" the manner we are together; but Ma-
" zulhim has had amours with other wo-
" men; they have afterwards been belov-
" ed by men, to whom without doubt they
" have related their adventures; there are
" perhaps in Agra above a thouſand wo-
" men, who could not reſiſt the force of
" his ſolicitations, and conſequently four
" thouſand men, or near the number who
" muſt be acquainted with the truth;
" and can you believe, that between the
" reſentment of the women, and the jea-
" louſy of the men, a ſecret of this nature
" could be concealed? No, Madam, I tell
" you

" you again, that ſuch a man as you would " make Mazulhim appear, could not im- " poſe on the world for ſo long a time."

" Beſide,"—continued he, " you know " Telmiſſe, and that ſhe is neither young " nor handſome; yet within theſe ten days " Mazulhim gave her ſuch ſubſtantial " proofs that he knew how to love, as " both deſerved and acquired her utmoſt " eſteem. This I can aver for truth. Tel- " miſſe was overheard to report it, to her " confidante; and I do not believe there is a " woman in all Agra, whoſe good opinion " in this point, does a man greater ho- " nour, or is more difficult to obtain. Can " you then after this, think contemptibly " of Mazulhim?" " No," anſwered Zu- lica, with an air of diſdain and ſpite—" I " think he is incomparable—it is my fault, " doubtleſs, that I have not found him " ſo." " For my part," reſumed Naſſes, " I know not what to think, there is ſome- " what in it inconceivable. But," add-

ed he, "perhaps you will not believe "me in one thing I am going to ſay; and "that is, if I were a woman, ſuch a man "as you have repreſented Mazulhim, "would pleaſe me above all others." "I "believe," anſwered ſhe, "that I ſhould "neither value a man more or leſs on that "account, but I proteſt I ſee no reaſon "why one ſhould give ſuch a one the pre-"ference."

"A man," proceeded Naſſes, "in ſuch "a ſituation muſt be all complaiſance; he "would be ſo ſenſible of the honour of "being loved, that he would do every "thing in his power to deſerve it; and "what he wanted in one thing, be always "endeavouring to make up in others—— "he would be leſs your lover than your "ſlave, fearful to offend, and happy when "he could oblige. Conſtantly inventing "ſome new methods of indemnification, "and love would doubtleſs furniſh him "with many. It is not a blind and wild

"deſire,

"desire, that ought to be flattering to the "vanity of your sex; but that sort of pas- "sion, which your charms inspire, even "to triumph over nature, which is the "truest glory."

"Well," replied Zulica, "you have "such notions,"—"you have too much "delicacy," interrupted he, "to make "you look on this as so; and I know more "women than one that"——"let us drop "this conversation," cried she, stopping him in her turn from going on. "I "hate to dispute on things, in which I "have no interest; but upon the whole, "I think you have much less reason than "Mazulhim, to endeavour to persuade me "to this opinion."

"She is in the right," said the sultan, "but when does she go away?" "How "impatient you are," said the sultaness. "It is not because I am tired," resumed the sultan, "far from it; but though I "am very much entertained, methinks I

" ſhould like as well to hear ſomething " elſe, it is all one to me." " What do " you ſay," cried the ſultaneſs? " Why, " do you not underſtand me?" replied he, " I think I ſpeak plain enough;—when " I ſay I am pleaſed with one thing, does " that hinder me from liking another alſo; " but I will make myſelf better under- " ſtood"——" There are a thouſand " things that would loſe by being explain- " ed"—interrupted the ſultaneſs; " ſo we " will excuſe you; what would you have " more?" " Why I would have Aman- " zei to finiſh his ſtory," replied Schah Baham. " He muſt then continue it," ſaid the ſultaneſs; " on the contrary," re- ſumed the ſultan, " in my mind he had " better end it here; but as I love to be " polite, I will permit him to proceed, " upon condition he does not ſpin it out " too long."

" Moreover," ſaid Zulica, " you would " very much oblige me, if you never more " men-

" mentioned Mazulhim before me." " Moſt " willingly, Madam," replied Naſſes, " it " is a mark of having thoſe ſpirits exhauſt- " ed, you ſpeak of, to dwell on a con- " verſation altogether unprofitable; and " for which I ſhall never forgive myſelf " ſince it has diſpleaſed you, though my " tenderneſs for you, and the deſire of " knowing why you believed I loved you " better than Mazulhim had done, were " the ſole motives that made me guilty. " The more I prize your kindneſs, the " leſs you ought to blame a curioſity which " had I not loved you as I do, had been a " ſtranger to me"——" No," replied ſhe, in a melancholy tone, " methinks for ſome " minutes paſt, you ſeem to love me leſs " than you did; I cannot give any rea- " ſon for ſo cruel a ſuppoſition, yet I have " not power to baniſh it, and it pierces me " to the ſoul."

" How much do theſe kind inquietudes " enchant me!" cried Naſſes, " as they

" are without foundation, they could not " ariſe but in a heart, equally tender and " delicate. You do me injuſtice indeed, " but that very injuſtice proves how much " you love me, and conſequently renders " you ſtill dearer to me. But charming " Zulica," continued he, " re-aſſure your- " ſelf——Heaven! what an extaſy to diſ- " ſipate your fears——Zulica!——amiable " Zulica—O that for the happineſs of us " both, the raptures ſuch as I now feel " might be eternal." In ſpeaking theſe words he took her in his arms, and almoſt ſtifled her with kiſſes. " Ah, why!" cried ſhe, " do you thus tranſport me be- " yond myſelf!—the force of your paſſion " reaches to my heart—I am all diſſolved, " all melted with exceſs of pleaſure—it is " too much to bear—Ah, Naſſes! you alone " —yes, you alone!——but Naſſes! Ah " cruel"—

Though Zulica did not give over ſpeaking, it was impoſſible to underſtand what more

more ſhe ſaid. "What, ſhe ſpoke too low, "did ſhe?" cried the ſultan. "Yes, may "it pleaſe your majeſty," replied Amanzei. "Nay," reſumed the ſultan, "you "did not loſe much by not hearing her, "for I am miſtaken, if there was any com-"mon ſenſe in what ſhe ſaid, at leaſt for "my part I comprehended nothing." "I "am of your majeſty's opinion," anſwered Amanzei, "nothing could be leſs clear. "However, whether Naſſes did not under-"ſtand her, or in that moment, he had "no more wit than herſelf, I know not, "but he ſpoke much in the ſame ſtrain." "Did not I tell you," reſumed the ſultan, "that theſe people have not common "ſenſe."

When they were a little recovered from their mutual infatuation, purſued Amanzei, "Ah, Naſſes," cried Zulica, "how "charming you are!—Ah, why did I not "love you ſooner?" "It is I," replied he, "who have the moſt reaſon to regret

" that; every happy moment I enjoy with
" you, reminds me that I did not begin to
" live, till you had begun to love me—
" Ah, Zulica, your kindneſs raviſhes me;
" but when I conſider the charms, to
" which Mazulhim has ſhut his eyes, I
" am touched with compaſſion—this place,
" rendered ſo dear to me by the favours
" you have conferred, is odious, when I
" reflect it was here where you confer-
" red the ſame on him.—The ungrateful
" man, he ſhould have bluſhed at the re-
" membrance of having ever loved before,
" and have renounced for ever his incon-
" ſtancy—what genius! what God, after
" having rendered him inſenſible to your
" beauties, inſpired him with the thought
" of chuſing me to acquaint you with
" his perfidy—Ah, Zulica! how terrible
" a misfortune would it have been to me
" if you had been faithful! or if any other
" than I had—

" Hold!"

"Hold!" cried Zulica, interrupting "him with an imperious air, "if I had "been faithful?—I never loved any but "him; and in the attempt to baniſh him "from my heart, Naſſes alone could have "ſucceeded."

"I believe," ſaid Naſſes, "that ſince "you have made choice of me, you in "reality like no other better; but when "I think on the condition in which I "found you here, and what a price any "raſh adventurer that Mazulhim might "have ſent to you, might have, perhaps, "exacted for his ſilence on this occaſion, "I cannot help being extremely diſ-"turbed."

"You have little reaſon," replied ſhe, "whatever he had demanded would have "been indifferent to me: I ſhould have "conſented to nothing." "You cannot "anſwer for yourſelf," reſumed he; "wo-"men ſometimes are in terrible ſituations, "and your's, perhaps, was one of the moſt

"critical

"critical that could be." "I confeſs it," ſaid Zulica; "but I would have you "to believe, that it is a thouſand times "leſs cruel to a woman of honour and de- "licacy, to be abandoned by a man ſhe "loves, than to yield herſelf to the em- "braces of a man ſhe has no affection "for." "That is not to be doubted," anſwered he; "but there is ſomething ſo "ſhameful in being found in a place ſuch "as this, that if I were a woman, and were "ſurprized in this manner, I know not "what I ſhould do; I imagine that I ſhould "be glad at any rate, to purchaſe the ſi- "lence of the man who had made the diſ- "covery." "Ridiculous!" ſaid Zu- lica; "ſure you muſt be out of your "ſenſes to talk at this rate! Do you ſup- "poſe there would be occaſion to grant any "thing to a man of gallantry or honour, "to induce him not to ſpeak of ſuch an af- "fair? And as for any other, he would "not dare to make any propoſals of the

"kind

"kind you mention, to a woman of a cer-
"tain way of behaviour. O yes, Ma-
"dam," anſwered Naſſes, "any woman of
"what quality or character ſoever, if found
"in the manner you was found, diſcovers
"a ſenſibility to the pleaſures of love, ſuf-
"ficient to embolden hope in the man who
"is in poſſeſſion of her ſecret."

"You are miſtaken," ſaid Zulica, "it
"is liking alone, the extremeſt liking, that
"can ſeduce a woman of virtue; and I
"believe, whatever you may ſay, that there
"are very few women who would pur-
"chaſe a man's diſcretion at ſo dear a
"price.——"How," interrupted Naſſes,
"do you think a woman would not rather
"ſacrifice her honour than her reputa-
"tion?" "I would not," replied ſhe,
"and I know no exigence, how terrible ſo-
"ever, that would oblige me to give my
"perſon, where I could not give my heart."
"A man muſt have an extreme delicacy,"
ſaid he, "that makes this diſtinction, and

"ſtops

" ſtops till the ſlow reſult of inclination
" ſhall yield to the gratification of his
" wiſhes; for my part, I think the ſureſt
" way to gain the ſoul, is, by taking care
" to pleaſe the body; and it often happens,
" that the paſſion ends there."

" I begin to underſtand you," anſwered ſhe, " you would have me to believe, that " you impute the favours I have granted " you to the ſituation in which you found " me; and would rather derogate from " your own merit, than not think meanly " of me. Is this, alas! the happineſs with " which I flattered myſelf," added ſhe? " Ah, Naſſes, Naſſes! could I, ought I " to have expected ſo ungenerous a con- " ſtruction on my behaviour from you?" " But, Zulica," anſwered he, " do you " think I have forgot the cruel reſiſtance " you made, and how much it coſt me to " obtain even the ſlighteſt favours from " you?" " Ah! cried ſhe, ſobbing, " do " you think I can take this as any other

" than

"than a reproach for my having not long "enough reſiſted?—Swayed, alas! by the "impulſe of my tenderneſs, and ſeduced "by my opinion of your honour, I reſign-"ed myſelf, without ever imagining you "would one day look on my too eaſy "compliance as a crime." "What chi-"mera is this?" demanded Naſſes, ap-proaching her. "Can you believe I ſhall "ever reproach you with an action which "has made me the happieſt of mankind?" He concluded theſe words with all the teſ-timonies in his power of the truth of what he ſaid. "Leave me," ſaid ſhe, puſh-ing him gently from her, "leave me, and "if it be poſſible forget I have ever loved "you."

The repulſes Zulica gave him were ſo gentle, that had his preſſures been leſs ve-hement, they would eaſily have prevailed: "You repent of having loved me," ſaid he, "you would break with a man who "lives but to adore you—a man who

"would

" would fix his eternal happineſs in theſe " dear arms"—to theſe words, he added every thing that could render them perſuaſive. " No," replied Zulica, in a voice that had nothing of indignation in it, " no, charming traitor, dear as you are, " you ſhall not deceive me any more."—— " Heavens!" purſued ſhe, in accents ſoftening ſtill more in every ſyllable, " are " you not the moſt unjuſt, and moſt cruel " man in the world!—let me alone—no, " you ſhall not conquer me again—I will " never forgive you—how I begin to hate " you——"

Naſſes made no reply; but I eaſily perceived that all the proteſtations Zulica made had little effect upon him; and ſhe, all of a ſudden, ceaſing, ſeemed not to wiſh he ſhould believe himſelf leſs beloved. After ſome moments of interval, " I do " not know whether I flatter myſelf or " not," cried Naſſes, " but I ſwear I " cannot think you hate me ſo much as " you

"you ſay you do." "You take this for a "victory then," anſwered ſhe, ſhrugging up her ſhoulders—"How vain you are— "is it my fault if you—but for all that, I "hate you ſtill—Do not laugh," added ſhe, perceiving he could not forbear, "no- "thing can be more true than what I tell "you." "I have too good an opinion "of you to believe it," ſaid he, "and I "do, and will aſſure myſelf, that you "love me as much as you can love any "thing." "Then I muſt tell you," anſwered ſhe, "that if I love you at all, I "love you as much as there is a poſſibility "of loving; for I aſſure you, my heart is "not formed for moderate deſires." "I "believe it," ſaid Naſſes; "and it is "therefore that I am ſo certain of my hap- "pineſs. The greater the delicacy, the "more lively are the paſſions; and now I "think on it, a woman is very unfortu- "nate to be of your temper; for I dare "affirm, that ſuch is the depravation of

"the

"the times we live in, that the more a "woman is deſerving of eſteem, the more "ridiculous ſhe appears in the eyes of the "world; nor is it only from her own ſex "ſhe meets with this injuſtice, the very "man in whoſe favour ſhe condeſcends to "run ſuch riſques, treats her with the "ſame, and has the greater opportunity to "do it as he knows her better; and con-"ſequently, is the more believed in the re-"ports he gives of her." "That is but "too true," anſwered Zulica with a ſigh.

"If we look into the world," continued Naſſes, "what is the object of our pur-"ſuits with your ſex? Love? No; it is "the gratification of our own vanity. "We paſs from one beauty to another, "merely to deceive them, and to have "the pleaſure of reporting their weakneſs. "We make as many conqueſts as we can, "though even of thoſe leaſt worthy the "trouble of obtaining; and are better

"ſatisfied

"ſatisfied to boaſt of a number we have "ſubdued, than to poſſeſs one worthy of "engaging us—we are to this end perpe- "tually ſwearing love, but never feeling "it."—"You are in the right," inter- rupted Zulica; "but in effect, the women, "generally ſpeaking, are to blame alſo for "the faults you are guilty of on this ſcore. "You would treat us with leſs neglect, "if we could all of us think and behave "in a manner deſerving of reſpect." "I am "ſorry to ſay ſo," replied he; "but in- "deed it is certain, they are apt to fall into "a little mean affectation"—"A little!" cried ſhe; "rather ſay a great deal—they "are vain, wanton, ſilly, incapable of "knowing their own minds, and always "pretending to be the reverſe of what "they really are. There are, however, "ſome women of true ſenſe, who are ge- "nerous and ſincere, but the number is "ſmall. I do not ſpeak of thoſe who make

"ſale

"ſale of their favours," continued ſhe; "for I believe you will own, that you find "in them more to pity than to blame; "but I think it ſtrange, that when a wo- "man is only led by love to make a falſe "ſtep, that the paſſion to which it is ow- "ing, ſhould not be an excuſe, at leaſt "with her own ſex." "There are few "women ſo candid as you are," ſaid Naſſes. "To what purpoſe ſhould one "diſſemble things ſo well known," re- ſumed ſhe? "For my part, I muſt tell "you, I would have all women of diſcre- "tion and delicacy, to be treated with "the utmoſt reſpect, even though they "happen to be once or twice overcome by "a paſſion, which the wiſeſt have found "irreſiſtible; and on the other hand I "think thoſe, whoſe conduct is irregular, "and whoſe principles are diſſolute, can- "not be uſed with too much ſcorn, too "much deteſted, or avoided. All *weak-*

"*neſs*

"*neſs* is excuſable; but *vice* ſhould al-
"ways be diſcountenanced and con-
"demned."

"It is condemned in the main," re-plied Naſſes, "though it is often tolerat-
"ed. Vice does not appear what it is in
"an amiable object, and one of the greateſt
"charms women now a-days poſſeſs, is
"a certain boldneſs in their manner,
"which gives their admirers the liberty
"of believing it will be no difficulty to
"engage them."

"I am not, indeed, ignorant," ſaid ſhe,
"that theſe are the conqueſts your ſex are
"moſt deſirous of purſuing—You aim not
"at the heart; as you feel no paſſion
"yourſelves, you are indifferent about in-
"ſpiring it; and provided you can triumph
"over the perſon, the reſt is little re-
"garded."

"A moment's truce, good Amanzei," ſaid the ſultan; "Pray when is Zulica to
"find ſhe is deſpiſed?" "Oh the ad-
"mirable

"mirable queſtion!" cried the ſultaneſs.
"What I ſay," replied he, "is not out
"of any malice to her; but it is a queſtion
"which I do not think I am in the wrong
"to aſk: I am tired to death, and yet I
"am to blame to ſpeak! very pleaſant in-
"deed!—Here Amanzei pretends to tell a
"ſtory, and gives me nothing but a long
"detail of converſations, which have not
"one word in them to make me laugh but
"when the people hold their tongues; and
"yet it is I that am in the wrong! In a
"word, Amanzei, and one word is as
"good as a thouſand, if to-morrow Naſſes
"does not deſpiſe Zulica—I ſay no more,
"but you know whom you will diſoblige."

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

Will teach Female Novices (if there are any) to evade perplexing Queſtions.

"YOUR majeſty," ſaid Amanzei the next day, "doubtleſs remembers"—"Yes, yes," replied the ſultan haſtily, "I do remember that I was quite wearied "out with your long ſpeeches: is it of "theſe you aſk me?" "If the tale be-"comes tireſome," ſaid the ſultaneſs, "he "ought to put an end to it." "No, if "you pleaſe," reſumed the ſultan; "I "will have him to continue, but I will "not have him to tire me; that is, do you "underſtand me, if he can help it; for I "do not aſk impoſſibilities." Amanzei having received this inſtruction and licence, proſecuted his narrative.

"I fear," continued Zulica, "that "even you have too little delicacy in this

"point." "You wrong me," anſwered Naſſes coldly, "I am naturally very ſuſ-
"ceptible of love, though I confeſs I have
"enjoyed many women for whom I had
"not the leaſt affection." "O, how
"vile a thing is that," cried Zulica, "I
"wonder how you can boaſt of it!" "I
"do not make a boaſt of it," replied he,
"I only tell you the plain truth." "I
"believe," ſaid ſhe, "you have deceived
"many women in your time." "I have
"quitted ſome indeed, but have not de-
"ceived them," reſumed he; "they ex-
"acted from me no promiſes of conſtancy,
"conſequently there was no neceſſity for
"my making any. And you know when
"people take one another without making
"any conditions, neither ſide has reaſon
"to complain."

"Will you excuſe me," ſaid Zulica;
"but I have all the curioſity in the world
"to know how you have paſſed your time
"with regard to our ſex." "To give

"you

"you the hiſtory," anſwered he, "with "all its circumſtances, would take up too "much time; I can ſatisfy you however "without running the riſque of being "tedious, if I ſuppreſs thoſe particulars, "which in effect have nothing in them "pleaſant or intereſting. Know then, "Madam," continued he, "it is ten "years ſince I have looked upon myſelf as "a man, being now twenty-five, and you "make the three and thirtieth beauty I "have had the good fortune to find ſenſi-"ble to my deſires." "Thirty-three!" cried Zulica. "It is certain I have en-"joyed no more," replied he, "but "you muſt not be ſurprized at the ſmall-"neſs of the number; I never was a "man of intrigue."

"Ah, Naſſes!" ſaid ſhe! "how ought "I to regret the love I have for you! And "how little can I rely upon your con-"ſtancy!" "Why ſo?" anſwered he; "muſt I love you the leſs for having poſ-

" ſeſſed thirty-two before I had the ho-
" nour of your affection?" " Yes," re-
plied ſhe; " the leſs you had loved, the
" greater would your ſtock of love have
" been at preſent." " I believe," re-
plied he, " you have experienced that
" *my ſpirits are not exhauſted*; and as for
" the reſt, to ſpeak freely to you, there
" are very few of thoſe affairs one has
" with your ſex, where the heart is any
" way concerned.—Convenience, idleneſs,
" and opportunity, promote moſt of them.
" I tell a lady that I am charmed with her
" without believing what I ſay; ſhe is
" grateful—Neither of us wait till love
" makes any progreſs in our hearts; and
" we quit each other for fear of growing
" tireſome. Indeed we are ſometimes de-
" ceived in ourſelves, and imagine we have
" the moſt ſincere paſſion, when in effect
" what we think love, is only deſire; a
" ſudden emotion of the ſenſes, which in
" enjoyment, is extinguiſhed; though for

" the

"the time, it affords no leſs pleaſures than "if it were love itſelf."

"I am of opinion," ſaid Zulica, very ſeriouſly, "that you never have truly "loved." "O pardon me," replied he; "I have twice loved with all the violence "imaginable; and I am now aſſured by "what I feel for you, that if the paſſion "has not been ſince awakened in me, it "was not becauſe it was incapable of be-"ing ſo, but becauſe I did not meet with "an object whoſe charms had force enough "to effect it. But pray," continued he, "ſince you are for interrogating me, give "me leave to aſk you in turn, how often "you have been ſenſible of the tender "flame." "Yes," replied ſhe; "and "I would anſwer you with yet more readi-"neſs, if there were any grounds for your "curioſity; and you did not already "know, that Mazulhim and yourſelf are "the only men who have ever made me "ſenſible what it was to love."

"If we knew one another leſs," ſaid Naſſes, "this kind of diſcourſe would be "natural enough. Nothing could appear "more impoſſible than to have diſguiſed to "me the motive of your coming here, yet "you endeavoured to do it; nor did I ſo "much wonder at it. But now when the "moſt perfect confidence ſhould be eſta-"bliſhed betwixt us, and when I have "concealed nothing from you on my part, "it ſeems ſtrange that you ſhould ſcruple "to make me the repoſitory of your ſe-"crets." "It might, indeed," replied Zuliça, "had I any thing in reſerve. But "I ſwear to you, that I have nothing to re-"proach myſelf with on this ſcore; and I am "even aſtoniſhed when I reflect on the "ſhortneſs of our acquaintance; at the "perfect confidence I have in you—Yes, "Naſſes, were I conſcious of the leaſt "particular that yet remained a ſecret to "you, I would diſcloſe it without heſita-

"tion,

"tion, and think it no leſs ſafe in your "breaſt than in my own."

"I am charmed with your complaiſance, "Madam," ſaid Naſſes, with an air full of deriſion and contempt; "I thought, "however, that after the freedom with "which I had treated you, I might have "expected more ſincerity."

In ſpeaking theſe words he was about to riſe, but ſhe hung fondly on him, and prevented his removing. "What means "this fancy, Naſſes?" cried ſhe, tenderly—"How happens it, that ſome mi-"nutes ago you held it for a crime "to doubt my veracity, and now you "ſeem to diſbelieve whatever I aver?" "If I muſt tell you, Madam," anſwered he, "I then gave no more credit to you, "than I now do. Taken up with a de-"ſign more pleaſing to me, I thought it "more for my intereſt to endeavour to "perſuade you over to it, than to en-"ter into a diſquiſition of what I knew

" could not be pleaſing to you; and which " alſo at that time I had no right to make."

" But, Naſſes, my dear Naſſes," inſiſted Zulica, " I proteſt to you by all that is " ſacred, there remains nothing more for " you to be informed of." " That is im- " poſſible, Madam," anſwered he, with a voice which had nothing in it of ſoftneſs;" " it is now more than fifteen years ſince " you arrived at an age to be addreſſed by " our ſex; and who can believe that a lady, " who in ſuch a length of time muſt have " received numerous attacks, ſhould ne- " ver once be brought under capitula- " tion?"—Bleſs me! to have but two lo- " vers, and theſe in three days, after hav- " ing lived ſo long inſenſible, is a paradox " that will never gain credit with the world " ——Your taſte for gallantry ſurely muſt " have come upon you very late."

" There is nothing ſo new in that as to " excite aſtoniſhment," ſaid Zulica; " I " am much miſtaken if there are not other

" women,

"women, who as well as myſelf, have re-
"tained an indifference for your ſex for as
"great a ſpace of time, and yet at length have
"met with an object capable of inſpiring
"them with tenderneſs, which, before, they
"had no idea of. I have certainly nothing
"to confeſs to you on this head; but if I
"had, I know not if the fear of loſing your
"eſteem would not keep me from revealing
"it. Contempt is generally the conſe-
"quence of ſuch a confidence; and though
"to have loved *before*, is no injuſtice to
"the perſon we love at *preſent*; yet the
"knowledge that we have done ſo, piques
"a lover's vanity; and he cannot forgive
"the woman who has found any man wor-
"thy to make an impreſſion on her, till
"ſhe had the good fortune to ſee himſelf."

"How chimerical a notion is this," cried Naſſes, "at leaſt to me it appears ſo. I
"aſſure you, Madam, that as to my own
"part, a free confeſſion of your paſt a-
"mours would be ſo far from leſſening my

" affection, that it would give me a new
" proof of your's, and perhaps the moſt
" convincing of any, becauſe of the vio-
" lence you muſt neceſſarily do yourſelf,
" in obliging me—you own that Mazul-
" him has been dear to you——Am I a-
" ſtoniſhed at it? or do I eſteem you the
" leſs? why then ſhould the knowledge
" that you had ſeveral lovers before him,
" be any more diſagreeable to me?—Is it
" my province to concern myſelf with thoſe
" who have preceded me?——Is it your
" fault, if fate brought us no ſooner ac-
" quainted? No, Zulica, no, I am not of
" their opinion, who think if a woman has
" once loved with ardour, ſhe never can
" entertain a ſecond paſſion equal to the
" firſt. On the contrary, I am perſuaded
" that a heart becomes the more attached
" to love, the more it is accuſtomed to it,
" and the laſt man is always preferable
" to him that went before."

" According

"According to this principle," replied she, "you would take no pride in knowing "yourself to be the first man that triumphed "over a virgin heart. No," said he, "not "in the least; and I will tell you my rea- "sons for it, though perhaps you may "think them somewhat particular."

"At that tender age, before a woman "has known the joys of love, if she wishes "to be vanquished, it is rather the im- "pulse of *curiosity* than *desire*; and when "she tells a man she loves him, it is more "because she finds such a confession pleases "him, than that she truly feels the passion. "Nay, I will go farther, she is in this "point liable to be deceived herself; and "unexperienced, takes every little emotion "of nature for a prodigious tenderness for "the first agreeable gallant that presents "himself; and never discovers she has "been mistaken, until she feels in good "earnest that delicacy, that pain-mixt "transport, which real love inspires."

"Perhaps too," ſaid Zulica, "ſhe ex-
"aggerates thoſe emotions you ſpeak of.
"But whether a paſſion in ſo young a
"creature be real or imaginary, it gives
"the ſame pleaſure to him who is the ob-
"ject of it. And under what diſadvan-
"tages ſoever you deſcribe firſt impreſ-
"ſions, believe me, that dear as you are
"to me, you would be a thouſand times, if
"poſſible, more ſo, had you never been
"devoted to any other woman than my-
"ſelf."

"You would loſe more by this than you
"imagine," replied Naſſes, "I am at pre-
"ſent a thouſand times more capable of
"diſtinguiſhing your merit, than I was at
"the time you wiſh to have been loved by
"me.—I had then no notion of true paſ-
"ſion, always roving, never loving, my
"heart remained untouched even in thoſe
"moments, when my ſenſes were tranſ-
"ported. They, however, believed I lov-
"ed, and I even believed ſo myſelf; every

"woman

" woman that I by turns poſſeſſed, ap-
" plauded the force of her own charms, in
" the effect ſhe imagined they had on me:
" I was gay, pleaſed, and vain on the fan-
" cied ſenſibility of my heart; and I did
" not think it was in nature, for a man
" to give or to receive the pleaſures of love
" in greater perfection. I was inceſſantly
" at the feet of her, who happened to be
" the reigning miſtreſs of my affections,
" that is of my taſte; always languiſhing,
" never ſatiated—a glance from a fine eye,
" ſhot fire through all my veins—my ima-
" gination heightened the idea of every
" charm and——" Ah Naſſes! Naſſes!"
cried Zulica, " ſay no more—how amiable
" were you at that time—you cannot love
" now as you did at that period."

" Infinitely more," replied he, " at that
" time I did not love all; carried away by
" the fire of youth, and the height of my
" ſpirits, it was to theſe, and not to love
" I owed emotions, which indeed were like

" love,

"love, though in reality not ſo, as I have "ſince been convinced of by experi-"encing the difference"—

"Ah!" interrupted ſhe, "it is impoſ-"ſible but you muſt have found yourſelf "leſs happy by being undeceived. Fear of "offending, diffidence of pleaſing, jealou-"ſy, a thouſand furies of the mind, which "then were only imaginary, now really "prey on your mind, and embitter all your "pleaſures. I mean this only if you truly "love, if not, you are ſtill the loſer, your "good ſenſe is improved, but your ſenſibi-"lity is impaired; you reaſon better on "the paſſion, but you feel it leſs."

"This argument, if of any weight," ſaid Naſſes, "makes more againſt yourſelf "than me; for ſuppoſing Mazulhim to "have been your firſt lover, cannot you be "as happy in your love for me, as you "were in that you felt for him?"—"I am "not at all ſurprized you return always to "that theme," cried ſhe, "theſe things

"I

"I would wiſh to forget, are to you a plea-
"ſure to remember; but let us drop it."
"No," replied he, "we muſt not drop it,
"till you have ſatisfied me better."

"You know not what you would be at,"
ſaid ſhe, peeviſhly. "But in the faſhion
"you have lived, it is not to be wondered
"at that you think ill of women." "No,"
anſwered he, "it is the manner in which
"the women live, that gives me cauſe not
"to think well of them. You will tell
"me perhaps, that I do them injuſtice."
"No, I proteſt to you," returned ſhe diſ-
dainfully, "I ſhall not give myſelf ſo much
"trouble." "I underſtand you," cried he,
"you think it would be in vain. But,"
continued he, "will you then abſolutely
"refuſe to tell me whom you have loved?"

"Is this ſtill in your head?" cried ſhe.
"If you love me, can you doubt the truth
"of what I ſay?" "Indeed Zulica," an-
ſwered he, "you may think as you pleaſe,
"but

"but this way of talking is ridiculous to "the laſt degree."

Zulica, who, as your majeſty may perceive, ſaid Amanzei, had been all this while labouring to turn the converſation—"She "did well," interrupted the ſultan, "but "you would have done ſtill better, if you "had brought them together again, as they "have been, and ſpared all theſe diſſerta-"tions, which only puzzle the cauſe. In-"deed you muſt own you are no better "than a babbler, and love to hear yourſelf "ſpeak—how do you think one can be "entertained with theſe perfidious peo-"ple? In a word, I will have you to fi-"niſh your hiſtory."

Zulica, continued Amanzei, endeavoured for a long time to evade complying with the deſires of Naſſes, but at length finding it impoſſible to put him off without making an entire breach with him, ſhe ſeemed yielding to his reaſons, having firſt exacted a promiſe from him, not to eſteem her

her the leſs for what ſhe was going to reveal. "The more I have refuſed ſatiſfying your curioſity," ſaid ſhe, "the leſs "reaſon I have now to conſent to it; and "you will think yourſelf leſs obliged to "me by the confeſſion I am about to make, "than the contrary, by my having ſo long "retarded it. But Naſſes, you cannot be "ignorant, that it is infinitely more eaſy "to inſpire a woman with a new paſſion, "than it is to bring her to a recital of "her former ones. But however my ſex "in general may diſſemble their paſt a-"mours, I aſſure you my ſilence has not "been occaſioned by any ſuch motive; but "I think it impoſſible to recall the re-"membrance of one's weakneſs, without "feeling the moſt pungent mortification "for having been guilty of it; or a kind "of horror, for the ungenerous behaviour "of an unworthy lover. True," ſaid Naſſes, "a woman of your delicacy has "many ſcruples."

"Mighty

"Mighty well," cried the ſultan, "but "for the pleaſure I take in hearing you, "I deſire you will defer till to-morrow, "the continuance (for I dare not ſay "it is the end) of this ſtrange conver-"ſation."

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

Full of Alluſions difficult to ſolve.

"KNOW then," ſaid Zulica, "that "when I firſt began to make a pub-"lic appearance in the world, without "being handſomer than others of my age, "I had more lovers than I deſired, gay and "vain as I then was. By thoſe I call lovers, "I mean that crowd of idle ſaunterers, "who follow every new face, and affect "a paſſion merely becauſe it is the faſhion, "and whom a woman liſtens to only for "the ſame reaſon. They prevail however "more eaſily upon us to think ourſelves "handſome, than on themſelves to find "us ſo. Though they flattered my pride, "they were far from making an impreſ-"ſion on me. Born with an uncommon "delicacy, I trembled at the thoughts of "love, as I perceived it to be almoſt im-

"poſſible

" poſſible to find a heart ſo tender and
" faithful as my own. Though I had little
" knowledge of the world, it was yet ſuf-
" ficient to convince me, that the greateſt
" misfortune, that could happen to a wo-
" man of modeſty and diſcretion, was to
" poſſeſs a violent paſſion, how ſucceſs-
" ful ſoever it might be. While I con-
" tinued indifferent, theſe conſiderations
" employed my thoughts. But the fatal
" time at laſt arrived, which taught me
" that they had only power over me, be-
" cauſe my heart was untouched, and that
" the tranquillity which I had ſo much ap-
" plauded in myſelf, was leſs the work
" of reaſon, than the effect of chance. One
" moment, one little moment alas! de-
" ſtroyed all the reflections I had been ca-
" pable of making, and changed my for-
" mer peace of mind into confuſion, which
" was the more violent as it ruſhed upon
" me all at once. To ſee! to love! nay,
" even to adore! to feel the ſofteſt wiſhes,

" and

" and the moſt cruel emotions; to exult
" with hope, and to languiſh with de-
" ſpair, was all the work of one glance.
" Aſtoniſhed at the alteration I found in
" myſelf, and filled with deſires which till
" then had been wholly unknown to me,
" I wiſhed, yet feared to enquire into the
" cauſe--Abſorbed in tenderneſs, ſtrange
" wild emotions overwhelmed all my ſenſes,
" and would not ſuffer me to call reaſon
" to my aid for the ſuppreſſion of the
" ſweet diſorder, which, inexplicable as
" it was then to me, gave me a delight im-
" poſſible to be expreſſed by thoſe that feel
" it, much leſs poſſible to be deſcribed by
" thoſe who feel it not.

" When I diſcovered that I loved, what
" dreadful conflicts did my poor heart ſuſ-
" tain, by the ſtruggles I made to baniſh
" the fatal paſſion, which, alas, had al-
" ready gained but too much empire over
" me. I oppoſed to it all the leſſons of
" duty, virtue, reputation, but in vain;

" my

" my ſighs, my tears, my fears were all
" fruitleſs, or to ſpeak more properly, ra-
" ther augmented the power of the ſweet
" tyrant they combated with, than any way
" diminiſhed it. Ah, Naſſes! to compleat
" my overthrow, I found by the aſſiduities
" of him I adored, that I was beloved——
" with what tranſports was I then filled!—
" How did my ſoul diſſolve, when he de-
" clared his paſſion, and how much did it
" coſt me to conceal mine!

" How happy were you Naſſes, who by
" the privilege of your ſex, were permit-
" ted to diſcover the firſt emotions of your
" flame, to the object that excited them!
" You knew not the agonies of that diſ-
" ſimulation, ſo neceſſary for our ſex, if
" they would preſerve the eſteem of him
" they love, and ſo terrible for a tender
" heart to ſuſtain. Whenever my lover
" ſighed, I ſighed that I could do no more
" for him; whenever his eyes were fixed
" upon me, the tears were ſo ready to ſtart

" from

" from mine, that I durſt not return the
" kindneſs of his glances! and when he
" offered to approach me, how did I curſe
" that ſevere modeſty, which conſtrained
" me to withdraw from him! But Naſſes,
" when he declared his paſſion, what an
" extacy ruſhed over my ſoul—an extacy
" which indeed men cannot be ſenſible of,
" becauſe we tell you not we love, till we
" have made you wait a long time, ſome-
" what too long perhaps for a confeſſion;
" which at laſt, rather ſeems to be ex-
" torted by your aſſiduities, than beſtowed
" by our free will. But when we ſee a lo-
" ver, a lover whom we adore, who is ne-
" vertheleſs ignorant of his happineſs, fall
" at our feet, fear, love, and reſpect paint-
" ed in his face, trembling between the
" fiercer emotions of his paſſion, and the
" diffidence of its being favourably receiv-
" ed, wanting even the power of declar-
" ing the ſentiments he is inſpired with;
" in broken ſentences, and half-formed
" accents

"accents endeavouring to pour out his "whole ſoul before us. Ah Naſſes, what "a pleaſure! to be equalled ſure by no-"thing to which words can give a name, "and what nothing but the moſt lively "and tender imagination is able to con-"ceive!"

"Vanity of itſelf," ſaid Naſſes, "is "ſufficient to render ſuch a ſcene agree-"able to a perſon of the age you then "were, how much more muſt it be, to "one equally inflamed as you were. But "in fine, he avowed his paſſion I per-"ceive; what anſwer did you make?"

"Judge of my perplexity," proceeded ſhe, "divided between love and virtue! If the "latter did not wholly prevail, it ſerved at "leaſt to prevent the other from ſhew-"ing itſelf as it would have done. But, "alas! not to that point I endeavoured, "while I liſtened to him;—the agitation "I was in, betrayed the ſecret of my "heart, and when I thought to anſwer

"with

" with indifference, my eyes and my " tongue in ſpite of me, aſſured him that " my tenderneſs was not inferior to his " own."

" This is a very common misfortune," ſaid Naſſes coldly; " and pray, who was " this happy dangerous man, whom, in " ſpite of your natural ſeverity, to ſee " and to love, were the ſame thing?" " Of what importance is his name," cried ſhe, " have I not told you every thing " you wanted to know?" " Not yet," replied he, " and you yourſelf muſt own " the confidence you flatter me with is " not complete. " Well," ſaid ſhe, " it was the Raja Amagi."

" Amagi!" cried he, " when did your " acquaintance with him commence? He " is the moſt intimate friend I have, we " conceal nothing from each other, and " I am well aſſured, he never truly loved " any woman but Canzade. Amagi!

" you could not deceive yourſelf, ſo far as
" to think he loved you !"

" Was there ever ſuch rudeneſs !" cried Zulica in her turn; " your making a " doubt of it ſeems to be particular in- " deed !" " Not at all," replied Naſſes, " I ſhall make no ſecret of the reaſons I " have for it. Amagi has told me, that " in ſpite of his extreme tenderneſs for " Canzade, and the little inclination he " had to wrong her, he had ſometimes " been drawn in to amuſe himſelf with " others; but they were ſuch as had no " plea to engage his ſerious affection, but " bold enough perhaps, to make the firſt " advances; women, who had neither re- " putation nor decency, and whoſe only " attraction was the curioſity their be- " haviour excited, and which in ſpite of " the contempt one has for them, one " cannot always reſiſt. In ſpeaking of " his infidelities to Canzade, he has aſſur-

"ed me, that among all the women which "he had trifled with, he never found one "who deſerved the leaſt eſteem; and "that he had never been weak enough to "believe, as ſome of them pretended, "that the complaiſance they ſhewed him "was the effect of a paſſion too powerful "for all other conſiderations. You, Ma-"dam, cannot be among the number of "thoſe women, and therefore I ought not "to believe that Amagi ever had an amour "with you."

"He did not tell you all," replied ſhe, "for he loved me above three years, with "all the ardour paſſion can inſpire." "If "he did not acquaint me with his happi-"neſs on your ſcore," ſaid Naſſes, "it "was not becauſe he would make a ſecret "of it, but becauſe he happened to for-"get it. But did he not forſake you?" "Will you never have done queſtioning "me?" cried Zulica. "I aſk your par-"don," reſumed he, "but you are ſo

"little formed to be abandoned, that you "cannot wonder at my ſurprize. Well, "*I* will anſwer for you then: he did quit "you: after him, who next took poſſeſ-"ſion of your heart?"

"Alas!" ſaid ſhe, aſſuming an air of innocence, "grief for the loſs of one ſo "dear to me, employed more years than "I had known of joy, and I flattered my-"ſelf it was not in the power of man to "make me run a ſecond riſque—but Ma-"zulhim appeared, and all my reſolutions "vaniſhed."

"How unhappy is your ſex," cried Naſſes, "and how cruelly expoſed are "they to calumny!" "That is too "true, indeed," replied Zulica, "but "on what account do you repeat this at "preſent?" "On your's," ſaid he, "for I muſt tell you the world is ſo un-"juſt, as to lay a few more adventures to "your charge than I perceive you have "had." "As for that," anſwered ſhe, "it

" it neither ſurprizes nor provokes me;
" for when a woman ſeems not to fear
" cenſure, the world is not ſo juſt as to
" imagine it is not becauſe her actions
" merit none; and they frequently give
" us for lovers, thoſe very men whom we
" are leaſt diſpoſed to liſten to; but all
" this is nothing to me—Is it not poſ-
" ſible for you to talk of ſomething elſe?"

" It is not true then," ſaid Naſſes, " that you have had all the lovers that are " aſcribed to you?" Zulica made no reply to this new impertinence, but ſhrugged up her ſhoulders with an air of aſtoniſhment and chagrin. " Be not angry at " what I ſay," continued he; " were " you leſs charming, I ſhould readily be- " lieve you had ſuppreſſed no part of your " hiſtory."—" Well, well," cried ſhe peeviſhly, " I have had all the world—— " it ſhall be as you pleaſe." " In fine," reſumed he, " you ſhall hear what is ſaid " of you."

"Your initiation in the tender paſſion "is doubtful, and the firſt man that had "you is undetermined to this hour. But "it is agreed, that in your extreme youth "having an ambition to be well accom-"pliſhed, you thought the beſt way to "become ſo, was to intereſt in your "favour thoſe who had the charge of in-"ſtructing you; and to that end, your "dancing and ſinging-maſters were per-"mitted by turns, to teach you other leſ-"ſons than thoſe of the ſciences they pro-"feſſed; and it is to this uncommon ma-"nagement of your's, that you have at-"tained ſo great a perfection in theſe qua-"lifications."

"O great God! how horrible is this!" cried Zulica. "Right, Madam," ſaid Naſſes coldly; "it is horrible indeed! "Though for my part I am far from con-"demning you; nay, I am uncertain "whether I do not even eſteem you the "more, when I conſider, that at an age

"when

" when women are generally moſt reſerv-
" ed and baſhful, you had ſtrength of un-
" derſtanding to throw off all the preju-
" dices of birth and education. But, to
" proceed; when you was firſt introduced
" into the great world, convinced that ap-
" pearance is all, you concealed under a
" ſhew of coldneſs, your inclination for
" intrigue. Not, it is ſaid, that you were
" capable of any tender ſentiments; but
" your curioſity was ſo predominant, that
" every man you ſaw, excited it in you,
" and inſpired you with a deſire to know
" him to the bottom—With ſo much wit
" and penetration as you are miſtreſs of,
" the ſtudy of mankind is not very diffi-
" cult; and I have heard it ſaid, that the
" man, whom to diſcover, coſt you the
" moſt pains, never took you up above
" eight days. It was theſe philoſophical
" reſearches that made a great noiſe; and
" doubtleſs occaſioned malicious people
" to give an ill turn to your good inten-

"tions; but as there were no other wit-
"neſſes of thoſe private ſpeculations, but
"ſuch whoſe reports would not be be-
"lieved, or at leaſt ſuch whom you could
"outface, you attempted not to check
"the natural inclination you had for this
"kind of knowledge."

"Iſkender was at that time the lover
"of the princeſs Sakeb. You could not
"reſt without experiencing in yourſelf
"what were the inducements for the paſ-
"ſion ſhe ſo long had for him, and you
"ſucceeded ſo well, that ſhe never for-
"gave you, and to this day bewails his
"infidelity."

"Juſt Heaven! cried Zulica," wild with rage, "can ſuch abominable ſcandals "find credit."

"They alſo aſſure me," purſued Naſſes, with the ſame unconcern with which he had begun, "that you ſoon quitted Iſken-
"der, and took Akebar-Mirza, who,
"though a prince, was not ſufficient to

"reign

"reign ſolely over your heart, and you
"therefore joined with him the Vizier
"Atamulk, and the Emir Noureddin.
"The prince was for ever entertaining
"you with the ill ſtate of his health,
"which you knew was really more deplo-
"rable than he repreſented. The Vizier
"alſo, too much taken up with the affairs
"of ſtate to give full attention to your
"charms, was always talking to you of
"his profound policy, and the Emir of his
"conqueſts, and great actions in war.
"Diſguſted with theſe three perſons more
"important than amiable, yet knowing
"how dangerous it was to have enemies
"at court, you concealed your ſentiments
"reſpecting them, and with all the ſecrecy
"you could, threw yourſelf into the arms
"of young Velid, who, leſs great, leſs
"profound, leſs the ſoldier, was more
"agreeable than his rivals; and made
"amends by his aſſiduities, for the diſguſt
"you received from them. They ſay

"moreover, that finding Velid decline in "his attempts to amuſe you, and that it "was neceſſary to awaken his ardour by "jealouſy, you took Jemla to your arms. "That Velid outrageous at a rival, ſet "ſpies upon your actions, and at laſt diſ-"covered the three others; and that the "whole affair, which till then you had ſo "judiciouſly conducted, became common "talk, and gave you the moſt cruel, and "the moſt public mortifications

"This is too much!" cried Zulica, "ſtarting from her ſeat, let me go—and" —"Hold, Madam, a moment longer if you "pleaſe," ſaid Naſſes, obliging her to take her place again, "I have not yet done. "They are even ſo impudent as to ſay, "that diſcouraged by the ill ſucceſs you "had met with in theſe amours, you re-"ſigned yourſelf to perſons almoſt ſtran-"gers to you, who were agreeable enough "to amuſe your idle moments, but not to "engage your heart."

At

At the end of this recital, Zulica, who I could perceive had for ſome time been ready to burſt, vented in a torrent of tears ſome part of the rage it had excited in her. Naſſes, not ſeeming to obſerve her, continued thus: "You muſt acknowledge that I "have all the inclination in the world to "do you juſtice, when I tell you, that I "do not abſolutely believe all that has "been ſaid on your account." "O! you "are too favourable," replied ſhe. "Not "at all," reſumed he; "to know the "opinion I ought to have of you, I have "only to recollect the manner in which "you yielded to my deſires. But when I "ſay I do not believe every thing, you "may eaſily perceive that it is impoſſible "for me not to believe ſome things."

"Why ſo?" cried ſhe. "The ſtories "you have been told are ſo highly proba-"ble, that I am ſurprized you ſhould be-"have to me with ſuch regard." "I only "believe," ſaid he, "that"—"No, no,"

interrupted she, "believe all, and let us "part for ever." "Tho' you deserved it," replied he, "it would be an effort of which "I am not capable. Judge then, if think-"ing you innocent, I can harbour such a "thought, though you are so cruel to pro-"pose it." "Yes, yes," said she, "you "believe all you have repeated to me, and "merit not that I should give myself the "trouble to undeceive you." "What, "are we to quarrel then?" cried Nasses, "the same evening that began, puts an "end to *your* affection; as to what *I* feel "for you," added he, with a sigh, "I am "very sure it will be eternal."

"Yes, Sir, yes," replied Zulica, hastily, "we have quarrelled, and for ever." "For ever!" said he, "then you can part "from me, with just as little consideration "as you took me?—This is indeed a thing "I could not have believed. But how, "Madam, do you reconcile this with that "prodigious constancy, and that delicacy

"of

"of ſentiment you have talked ſo much
"of?——Now, I ſee the violence you
"did yourſelf in order to oblige me to
"keep your ſecret.——But after all,
"it is happy for me, ſince you were re-
"ſolved to abandon me, that you did it ſo
"ſoon: a longer acquaintance with you,
"might, perhaps, have rendered your in-
"conſtancy more difficult to be borne. I
"flatter myſelf, however, that you will
"make ſome reflections on this affair; and
"even though the inclination you had for
"me, ſhould be totally extinguiſhed, you
"will perhaps conſider, that when I men-
"tion the particular marks of favour you
"have conferred upon me, and affirm, that
"after having all the reaſon in the world
"to be ſatisfied with my behaviour, I could
"not engage your conſtancy for ſo ſhort a
"ſpace as twenty-four hours. I ſay, Ma-
"dam, that after the ſmall liberties you
"have permitted to me, the world will
"very much cenſure ſuch a cruel proceed-

"ing

"ing in you. No," continued he, advancing toward her, and taking her in his arms, "you will not be guilty of ſo much injuſtice to the moſt paſſionate lover in the world." "Stand off!" cried ſhe, ſtruggling to get looſe from his embraces, "rather let me die than ſuffer."—She then loaded him with all the reproaches female-reſentment can ſuggeſt. It was in vain that he now endeavoured to triumph over her; the rage ſhe was poſſeſt of, was a much better defence than all the ſevere virtue ſhe had affected. He could not with all his art ſnatch from her even the moſt trifling liberties. She was reſolute in her reſiſtance, and it is poſſible both were almoſt wearied, when the noiſe of a chariot ſtopping at the door, put an end to the attack, and the defence.

"My ſervants, thank heaven! are come," ſaid ſhe, and I ſhall leave you. It would "be of little ſervice to deſire you would re-"flect on what has paſt between us; for "the

"the more a perſon is capable of a baſe "action, the leſs he chuſes to remem-"ber it."

After theſe words, ſhe went towards the door, and was leaving the room. But I ſhall acquaint your majeſty to-morrow with the accident which obliged her to ſtay. "Why to-morrow?" ſaid the ſultan; "cannot you tell it to me to-day, if I have "a mind? But as it happens I have no "great curioſity, therefore let it be to-"morrow or another day; it is indifferent "to me."

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

So much the better.

AFTER what had paſſed between Zulica and Mazulhim, your majeſty will think ſhe had little reaſon to expect him. He it was, however, who made his appearance. She ſtarted back at ſight of him. Tears ſucceeded to her aſtoniſhment, and ſhe threw herſelf upon me with all the marks of unſpeakable diſorder. He pretended not to obſerve the condition to which his preſence had reduced her. And advancing towards her with a gay air, "I am come to "entreat your pardon, my charmer," ſaid he; "a train of impertinent, troubleſome, "vexatious affairs, have till this moment "detained me from your arms—What!" cried he, "in tears? Ah, Naſſes!——I "fear you have abuſed my friendſhip and "confidence

"confidence——What can I infer—If my "Zulica is diſpleaſed with me, what fury, "what deſperation ſhall equal mine!—— "This is an accident unforeſeen! aſtoniſh- "ing! I know not what to think of it— "For heaven's ſake, one of you unriddle "the myſtery——Ah! I gueſs it but too "well—I am the innocent cauſe—You be- "lieve me to be unfaithful—Yes, you be- "lieve it——But how little do you know "my heart——I return to you a thouſand "thouſand times more enamoured, and "more enchanted than ever."

The greater tenderneſs Mazulhim pretended, the greater was the confuſion of Zulica. All the artifices of her ſex were now of no ſervice to her. Naſſes, who took a malicious pleaſure to contemplate her in this ſituation, would not give any anſwer to Mazulhim, becauſe he thought ſhe might take the opportunity while he was ſpeaking of recovering herſelf. But it was in vain he waited for her to open her mouth;

ſo

ſo that a profound ſilence enſued. "Do "me the favour," ſaid Mazulhim at laſt to Naſſes, "to clear up this affair. Is it "on my account, or your's, that Zulica "laments herſelf?——Perhaps, forſaking "me, you now are the object of her af-"fections?" "Not at all," ſaid Naſſes, "ſince you muſt be informed, know that "it is I whom the unfaithful creature will "no longer love—We have quarrelled." "——O! perfidious!" cried Mazulhim; "what! after ſo many vows of everlaſting "conſtancy"—"I muſt do the lady the juſ-"tice to ſay," reſumed Naſſes, "that it "was not without great difficulty I con-"ſoled her for your abſence; and to per-"form my duty to the laſt, I leave you to "conſole her for mine with more facility, "if you can. Adieu, Madam," purſued he, addreſſing himſelf to Zulica, "my hap-"pineſs has been but of a ſhort duration; "I know, however, too well your good-"neſs, not to hope you will one day reſtore

"me

"me to that, which your prejudice has "made me loſe at preſent. Should you "pleaſe to remember me, be aſſured I ſhall "always be at your devotion."

As ſoon as Naſſes had left the room, Zulica roſe haſtily, and without regarding Mazulhim, preſſed to go alſo. "No, Ma-"dam," ſaid he very reſpectfully, "I "cannot ſuffer you to depart without hear-"ing what I have to ſay in my juſtifica-"tion. It may be too you have ſome lit-"tle apology to make me on your part; "but which way ſoever affairs have been "managed, it would be indecent methinks "to part without an explanation.—What, "will you not ſpeak to me?" purſued he; "do you not remember you have ſworn to "me an inviolable conſtancy?" "For "heaven's ſake! Sir," replied ſhe, weeping, "add not to the other indignities you "have treated me with, that of reminding "me of a paſſion I am convinced you ne-"ver felt." "What odd creatures are

"women,"

"women," cried Mazulhim; "a lover al-
"ways falls ſhort with them in ſpite of
"himſelf.—They grieve, they reſent, they
"accuſe, and when one moſt deſerves their
"pity, or comes to them full of the moſt
"tender tranſports, we find ourſelves hated
"and abjured! Yet, after all, you would
"be more juſt if you were leſs delicate;
"theſe over-refined ſouls always find ſome-
"thing to condemn. I am, however, o-
"bliged to your reſentment; for without
"that, I ſhould perhaps have been igno-
"rant all my life, how much you had lov-
"ed me; nay, I ſhould not have loved
"you ſo well. But tell me," added he, approaching her with a familiar air, "are
"you really ſo very angry as you pretend
"to be?"

All the reply Zulica made to this queſtion was, a look full of anguiſh and diſdain. "It is eaſy for me to juſtify myſelf," reſumed he, "yes, *very* eaſy," added he, ſeeing her ſhrug up her ſhoulders, "but I ſhall

ſay

"ſay nothing to that point till I hear for "what I am ſuppoſed culpable."

"The very queſtion is a freſh inſult," ſaid ſhe, "what have you not done to ren- "der yourſelf unworthy either of my love "or eſteem?——To appoint me to come "hither, and be abſent at the time I ex- "pected you waiting with impatience to "receive me, was of itſelf ſufficient to "have converted all the fooliſh affection I "had for you, into a juſt averſion. But to "ſend another in your ſtead, to inform "him of my weakneſs for you, which you "ought to have concealed from the whole "world"—"Conceal it," cried he, inter- rupting her; "there was much probability "indeed it ſhould remain a ſecret! Do you "fancy that two perſons, ſuch as we are, "can have an affair together without its "being known? But ſuppoſing that even "againſt your own experience, you could "have flattered yourſelf with ſuch a "thought, permit me to aſk you in what

"I

"I am to blame? How have I expoſed "you? Will not the ſecret, if it is one, "be ſafer in the breaſt of a man of quality, "and my friend, than in that of a ſlave? "Had I any other perſon near me whom "I could ſo properly have ſent? Time "preſſed me, I knew you were here wait-"ing for me, I was impatient, and doubt-"ed not but you were ſo; and therefore "employed a perſon whom I knew wanted "neither underſtanding nor manners, to "entertain you till my arrival. And you "muſt own, notwithſtanding the violent "paſſion you have for me, that no man in "the world is better qualified than Naſ-"ſes to pleaſe in converſation, or who is "more deſerving of eſteem.

"I take the liberty moreover, to tell you, "Madam, that after the thanks you have ſo "generouſly beſtowed on him for coming, "I am ſurprized you ſhould be angry with "me for ſending him. This thing indeed "ſeems to ſtand in need of being explain-

"ed;

"ed; but if you do not chooſe to do it, I "am neither very anxious nor curious con-"cerning it."

"What impertinence!" cried Zulica, "what effrontery!" "Softly if you pleaſe, "Madam," ſaid Mazulhim briſkly, "theſe "kind of exclamations are much better "ſtifled: there are a thouſand things which "I might cry out againſt in my turn; I "therefore deſire the favour of you not to "oblige me to retort—If you will do me "the honour to hear me, we ſhall talk a-"micably together, and perhaps it is more "your intereſt than mine to be compoſed— "let us conſider a little—The unexpect-"ed preſence of Naſſes I doubt not gave "ſome diſquiet at firſt; and I doubt as "little, that when you grew more eaſy to-"gether, you heaped upon him all thoſe "favours you generouſly deſigned for me."

"If it had happened ſo," replied Zulica fiercely——"It *did* happen, Madam," re-torted Mazulhim. "Well then, be it "ſo,"

"ſo," reſumed ſhe, with a lofty tone, "I "loved him." "O! you abuſe the word," cried he, "you did not love him. Since "you know him but little as yet, it ſhall "ſuffice that you allow him to be a man "of extraordinary merit."

"What I know of him," anſwered ſhe coldly, "is, that he is inſolent, arrogant, "and a ſtranger to good manners. He has "however *ſomething* that is pardonable, "and there are others who preſume as far "as he, who have perhaps more reaſon "to be modeſt."

"As oblique as you would point this "piece of ſatire," ſaid Mazulhim, "I ſee "very plainly it is levelled at me; and I "am willing without drawing it into con-"ſequences, to give you the conſolation of "hearing me confeſs it. I ſhall even car-"ry my reſpect for you much farther, and "not enter into a juſtification of myſelf, "ſince, perhaps, I could not do it with-"out being guilty of ſome unpoliteneſs.

"How

"How wretched is this affectation of in-
"dolence!" cried Zulica, with all the con-
tempt ſhe could aſſume. "And how ill
"does it become perſons ſuch as you are,
"to rally and turn into ridicule thoſe
"things which they ought to bluſh for."
"Mighty well, Madam," replied he, "ſay
"what you will I ſhall not ſwerve from
"the reſpect I owe you, nor from the
"manner in which I had reſolved to be-
"have to you; and ſhall be glad to ſet you
"an example of moderation, which, per-
"haps, you may be tempted hereafter to
"imitate." "I ſhall leave you," cried ſhe,
"to exerciſe the moderation you boaſt of,
"as much as you think fit, for I go"—
"No, Madam," replied he, taking hold
of her arm, "you muſt not leave me yet.
"It is not in this manner perſons like
"us ſhould terminate their acquaintance.
"The honour of us both requires we ſhould
"come to a right underſtanding, and avoid
"becoming the ſubject of converſations,

" in which perhaps you would ſuffer more
" than I. In a word, you muſt hear me,
" Zulica."

Whether Zulica fearing the ſcandal this adventure, if known, would bring upon her, thought ſhe ought to neglect nothing, that might induce Mazulhim not to expoſe her; or whether ſhe had too much contempt for him to be long angry, I will not take upon me to determine; but certain it is, that her anger viſibly abated, and ſhe threw herſelf on the Sopha, though without looking towards Mazulhim; who little regarding her behaviour, reſumed his diſcourſe in this manner.

" Well, Madam," ſaid he, " you can-
" not deny that you have granted the laſt
" favour to Naſſes. Another lover would
" tell you, that when a woman engages in
" a new amour, all former engagements
" are diſſolved, and on that account would
" not ſcruple to treat her with all the con-
" tempt, that ſuch an infidelity ſeems to
" merit;

"merit. But for my part, I know too "much of the world, not to ſee how all "this happened; and far from having the "worſe opinion of you, I like you the bet-"ter for it."

"I aſſure you," anſwered ſhe, "I am "far from deſiring what I have done, ſhould "have any ſuch effect upon you." "You "do not know, what you deſire;" ſaid he, "in the preſent confuſion of your mind, "it is impoſſible for you to diſtinguiſh the "real motives of the falſe ſtep you have "made; but I, who am more compoſed, "eaſily diſcern the truth. You believed "me inconſtant, pride urged you on to "revenge; had you loved me leſs, you had "not been unfaithful, and Naſſes would "in vain have endeavoured to bring you to "conſent to his propoſals. It was there-"fore the violence of your paſſion, which "left you neither time for reflection, nor "a free-will of acting, but hurried you to "lengths, which otherwiſe you never would

"have gone. I am only aſtoniſhed, that "Naſſes had ſo little delicacy, as to take "advantage of the ſituation he found you "in; or could be ſo blind as not to ſee that "even in his arms, you were devoted to "another, and that he owed his happineſs "merely to your love for me."

"No, no," replied ſhe, "flatter not "yourſelf ſo far. Naſſes paid addreſſes to "me, I approved of his flame, and yielded "to my own inclination, as much as to "his entreaties." "This is all the effects "of vanity and reſentment," reſumed he, "I do not believe a ſyllable of what you "ſay on this article—I know nothing leſs "true."

"Pleaſant enough!" cried ſhe, "no-"thing leſs true——it would indeed be "ſomething wonderful, if you ſhould know "better than myſelf, what paſſes in my "own breaſt.

"I know ſo well," replied he, "that "I can tell you every particular by which

"you

"you were ſeduced. Naſſes was charmed "with your beauty, and found it more for "his intereſt, to make a declaration of his "own paſſion, than to ſay any thing in "my juſtification; and far from ſpeaking "in my favour he"—"That is not to be "doubted," interrupted ſhe. "Did not "I tell you ſo?" continued he, "but "how poor a triumph has he to boaſt of? "How little ought he to boaſt of himſelf "for having attained it!——But after all, "one muſt pardon theſe ſort of ſtratagems "in ſome people, who ſtand in need of "them to render themſelves agreeable.

"What!" ſaid Zulica, "dare you pre-"tend to ſay that you are innocent?" "Certainly in every thing that relates to "you, I am," replied he, "and it is your-"ſelf alone who art unfaithful." "Not "guilty!" cried ſhe, "where then were "you? how was you detained from com-"ing, when I ſo impatiently expected "you?" "I left not the emperor," an-

ſwered he, "till the hour before my arrival "here;——Zadis who never quitted me, "can inform you of the truth of what I "ſay—Zadis, Madam," added he, "who "was obliged to endure a good deal of re-"partee on the occaſion of his being loſt to "the world all yeſterday."

At the name of Zadis, Zulica was alarmed; and could not conſtrain herſelf from bluſhing, as ſhe looked on Mazulhim, who, without ſeeming to take notice of the change he obſerved in her countenance, reſumed his diſcourſe in theſe words.

"Though I ſhall always retain for you "an extreme deſire, yet you may eaſily ſee "we cannot continue the intimacies you "permitted to me.—It is not that I can-"not forgive every thing; but a ſtrict "union between us, is no longer conveni-"ent for you or me; for the reſt, as we "took each other more from fancy than "love, and our hearts were never inflamed "with a real paſſion, this ſeparation can

"neither be mortifying to you, nor diſ-
"pleaſing to me; nor ought it to hinder
"us from indulging an amorous moment,
"if it ſhould happen that without entering
"into a ſerious engagement, we ſhould at
"any time take a whim of fooling a little
"together." "I flatter myſelf," anſwered
"ſhe ſcornfully, that in making a propoſal
"of this kind, you are ſenſible how ridi-
"culous it is, and do not preſume to think
"I ſhould conſent to it." "Pardon me,"
ſaid he, "I believed you knew what regard
"people ought to have for old friends; be-
"ſides, you cannot be ignorant, that no-
"thing is more common than to enter into
"new engagements, without abating any
"thing in favour of old ones. It is a ma-
"nagement which both prudence and plea-
"ſure ſeem to have eſtabliſhed, and I muſt
"own, I never once doubted that you
"would acquieſce in it."

Though the principles and conduct of Zulica, rendered her deſerving of ſo ſhame-

ful a propoſition, yet ſhe was highly offended that Mazulhim ſhould dare to imagine, ſhe was capable of what in reality, ſhe practiſed every day. She therefore aſſumed an air of virtuous pride, which inſtead of making him abaſhed for what he had uttered, ſerved only to make him deſpiſe her more heartily.

"If it were not ſo late," reſumed he, "I would prove to you, that in room of "reſenting my behaviour, you ought to "make me the moſt grateful acknowledg-"ments. I am not ignorant that Zadis "paſſed all yeſterday at your houſe; that "he was alone with you the whole day, "and a great part of the night. Excited "not by jealouſy, but curioſity of know-"ing whether you had failed in the pro-"miſe you had made to me of never ſeeing "him again, I ſet ſpies on you both" "——There was no occaſion," interrupted ſhe, "to give yourſelf this "trouble; I attempted not to conceal his

"being

"being with me; and the reaſons which "obliged me to receive him were ſuch, "as could only do me honour to be "known." "That is ſomething ſingu-"lar indeed," cried he laughing. "Your "turning into ridicule what I ſay," re-plied ſhe, "makes it not the leſs true. I "had not abſolutely broke with him, and "it was to tell him I would never ſee "him more, that——" "that you paſſ-"ed all the day, and almoſt all the night "with him," interrupted he. "Well, "Madam, I will not contradict you in "this article, extraordinary as it appears; "for you muſt allow, it is a little odd for "a woman to ſhut herſelf up with a man "four and twenty hours, for no other "purpoſe than to quarrel with him. "But, although I believe ſuch a thing "has no precedent, it might not be the "leſs politic. For my part, I can argue "in your defence, that Zadis receiving "from you the confirmation of his miſ-

" fortune, was almoſt expiring with grief,
" and that touched with the condition
" you ſaw him reduced to, you endeavour-
" ed to give him all the conſolation in
" your power, without prejudice to the
" fidelity you had ſworn to me. A de-
" ſpairing lover has little the uſe of his
" reaſon, and there requires many argu-
" ments to bring him to moderation; he
" will ſpeak, and ſpeak again, return a
" thouſand times to the ſame thing, have
" recourſe to different methods of pro-
" ceeding;—you muſt encounter his miſ-
" fortunes and tears, with compaſſion—
" his reproaches with reſentment.—All
" this takes up a deal of time, and I can
" aſſure you that what you employed to
" ſoothe the tempeſt of Zadis's ſoul, has
" not been thrown away; for he ſeemed
" to-day one of the gayeſt men at court.
" You may think it ſtrange, but I proteſt
" it is true, I never ſaw greater ſerenity
" and content in any face, than in that

" of

"of Zadis; ſo that if what you tell me be "ſincere, either your commands have had "a very extraordinary effect on him, or "he muſt have had a very moderate paſſion "for you to be ſo eaſy, under the diſap-"pointment of his wiſhes. Upon the "whole, if your rhetoric does honour to "your wit, his ſatisfaction does little cre-"dit to your charms.—But I will not af-"flict you, you are the beſt judge for "what cauſe he is ſatisfied. You ought, "however, methinks, to have engaged "him above all things, to affect a chagrin, "at leaſt ſo long as you thought there was "a neceſſity for deceiving *me*."

Zulica on this, made ſome efforts to clear herſelf; but Mazulhim would not ſuffer her to proceed; "All that you can "ſay, Madam," cried he, "is in vain. "—Spare yourſelf, therefore, the trouble "of a juſtification, which I neither de-"mand of you, nor will receive, and which "would coſt you many untruths, without

"giving me any ſatisfaction. Adieu," continued he, riſing, "it grows late, "and we ought to have parted before now "—but ſtop——" added he, "what will "you do with Naſſes?"

Zulica, ſeeming ſurprized at this queſtion, "what I aſk," ſaid he, "appears "to be of ſome conſequence to you—he "went away in diſpleaſure with you, and "I think it was very imprudent in you to "give him cauſe. You would do well to "ſee him again; rely upon it, I adviſe "you, for the beſt.—Avoid as much as "you can any talk of this adventure; "there was no great difficulty in guarding againſt him, while you hated each "other. But a man who has without "loving, obtained the laſt favour is dangerous if offended——ſhould you obſtinately refuſe his viſits, he may talk "perhaps, and though nothing certainly "could be more excuſable, than what has "happened between you, yet there are

"people

"people unjuſt and cruel enough, to "throw the blame wholly upon you, and "to make of the moſt common affair that "can be, a hiſtory quite particular and ri-"diculous. Indeed what they ſay, ought "not in the main to give you much diſ-"quiet; when a lady bears a certain "rank in the world, and has a certain "name, an affair more or leſs does not "touch her ſo nearly. But yet one would "avoid making one's ſelf enemies. There-"fore I will bring Naſſes to-morrow to "your houſe."

"What," cried Zulica, "do you "imagine I ſhall ever ſee you more." "Yes," anſwered he, "you muſt be pre-"vailed upon, if by chance Zadis ſhould "be particular enough to diſapprove of "our viſits, he ſhall be conſtrained to quit "you, or accuſtom himſelf by degrees to "ſee us both pay to you all the aſſiduities "you merit."

At the concluſion of theſe words, he offered Zulica his hand; and finding ſhe would not accept of it, "What trifling "affectation!" cried he, taking hold of her's in ſpite of her, "you play the baby "to a degree quite inſupportable."

With this, they walked out of the room —"did they," interrupted the ſultan? "I am glad of it—this is the beſt part of "your hiſtory, and they returned no more "I hope?" "I never ſaw Zulica again, "may it pleaſe your majeſty," anſwered Amanzei, "but Mazulhim came often." "And was always as you know how," ſaid Schah Baham, "well he was a rare "fellow—What women had he after Zu-"lica?" "A great many," replied the Emir, "of no more value than her, and "ſome whom he deſerved not to have had, "and whoſe deſtiny excited my compaſ-"ſion." "Things will happen ſo ſome-"times," reſumed the ſultan; "but" continued he, turning to the ſultaneſs, "do

"do not you think that Mazulhim treat-
"ed this Zulica very ill?" "I find her
"ſo contemptible, and ſo wicked a wo-
"man," anſwered the ſultaneſs, "that
"I ſhould have been glad to hear, ſhe
"had been yet more puniſhed if poſſible."
"Now to me it ſeems," ſaid Schah Ba-
ham, "that ſhe behaved with too much
"mildneſs to him; it is not in nature to
"be ſo tame." "I am of a contrary opi-
"nion," replied the ſultaneſs; "a woman
"ſuch as Zulica, has no defence againſt
"contempt; and as her ill conduct had
"ſubjected her to the moſt cruel inſults,
"the ignominy of her character, and that
"interior ſhame, with which in ſpite of
"herſelf, ſhe muſt be continually over-
"whelmed, gave her not the liberty of
"making any returns to the affronts offer-
"ed her. Had ſhe been a woman of a
"different turn of mind, I ſhould indeed
"have wiſhed not to have heard of her
"humiliation. But it would be a kind of
"encourge-

" encouragement to vice, to paint it happy
" and triumphant." Aye, aye," replied the ſultan, " it would be ſo indeed; but
" let us talk no longer about it, the argu-
" ment begins to make me uneaſy; and I
" cannot promiſe not to be very angry, if
" we ſpeak much more upon the ſubject of
" it. Come Amanzei, where did you go,
" when you left Mazulhim?"

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Amuſements of the Soul.

NOTWITHSTANDING the pleaſures I had found, reſumed Amanzei, in the little receſs of Mazulhim, the intereſt of my ſoul obliged me to quit it. And perſuaded that it was not there, I could ever hope to meet with the means of my deliverance, I went in ſearch of ſome other place, where I might (if there was a poſſibility of ſuch a thing) find what I had hitherto ſought after with ſo little ſucceſs. After many changes of ſituation, where only adventures of the nature I had already ſeen, and which had nothing in them worthy of being repeated to your majeſty, I entered into a ſpacious palace belonging to one of the greateſt lords of Agra. I wandered over the vaſt apartments, uncertain where to fix; till at laſt, I made choice of

of a cloſet, ſo beautifully ornamented, that magnificence and elegance ſeemed to vie with each other, which ſhould moſt attract admiration.—Every thing in it breathed ſplendor and voluptuouſneſs; the lofty gilded cieling, ſupported by pillars of alabaſter, in which a thouſand wanton cupids were curiouſly painted in as many different attitudes—the embroidered hangings preſenting all the profuſion that nature in the moſt delightful ſeaſon beſtows on us—the mirrors—the pictures—the vaſes of Japan, full of the moſt exquiſite perfumes, conſtantly burning, brought to view all that the ſoul can poſſibly conceive.—In fine, this cabinet might well paſs for the Temple of Luxury, where all the pleaſures of the ſenſes took up their habitation.

A moment after I had placed myſelf, the divinity of this ſweet receſs appeared. She was the daughter of the Omra, to whom the palace belonged. Her youth, her beauty,

beauty, the delicacy of her motions, can only be imagined; and were even the more touching by being impoſſible to be deſcribed—All that imagination can form of lovely, of exquiſitely charming were compriz-ed in her. The ſofteſt and moſt delicious ideas, revelled in her eyes, and gave a double grace to every feature.——Not a limb about her, but ſeemed actuated by love; and whether ſhe looked, or ſtepped, or lifted even a finger, one would imagine ſhe felt within herſelf, all the force of the ſweet paſſion ſhe inſpired. My ſoul could not contemplate this inchanting object without extraordinary emotions; and as I was deſtined by my ſituation to be ſometimes the place of her repoſe, I not only ceaſed complaining of my fate, but even began to dread being ever obliged to enter into a new life.

Ah, Brama! cried I, how vaſt muſt be the felicities thou prepareſt for thoſe, whoſe ſervices are approved by thee, when thou

permitteſt

permitteſt a ſoul fallen under thy juſt diſpleaſure to enjoy the ſight of ſuch a heaven of perfection.——Come, continued I, with tranſport, come thou divineſt creature, come, and ſolace a ſoul, impatient to receive thee; and which fain would blend to all eternity with thine, if the ſevere decrees of deſtiny reſtrained it not.

It ſeemed as if the omnipotent Brama, in that moment, lent a favourable ear to my prayers. The ſun being then in his utmoſt exultation occaſioned an exceſſive heat, Zeïnis, for that was the name of this adorable maid, felt the force of it, and prepared to take refuge in the arms of ſleep: ſhe drew the curtains, and excluded all light from the room, ſave ſuch as was alike favourable to ſlumber and to love—that pleaſing kind of gloom which hides no objects from the ſight, but adds to their luſtre, that gloom which renders modeſty leſs timid, and paſſion more daring.

A thin

A thin gauze robe ungirt, and looſely flowing, was all that concealed any part of Zeïnis from my obſervation. But when ſhe threw herſelf upon me, with what raptures did I receive her. The orders of Brama, in fixing my ſoul to a Sopha, allowed me the liberty of placing myſelf in what part of it I pleaſed, and I now experienced the favour he did me.

I made choice of that ſpot, whence I could beſt diſcover the charms of my fair burthen. The more I ſaw, the more I was enchanted—I contemplated her with all the ardour of the moſt paſſionate lover, and all the admiration which a man the moſt indifferent to love could not have refuſed her.—Heavens! what rays ſhot from her eyes! How inſupportably bright on her firſt lying down; and what a bewitching languor by degrees ſtole on them, as an inclination to ſleep increaſed, and at length cloſed their lids.

I now employed myſelf in forming ideas of thoſe beauties which I had not as yet been able to diſcover; and examining with more attention, theſe which at preſent were expoſed to my obſervation. But I had ſoon freſh matter for wonder and admiration. Though the lovely Zeïnis was not diſturbed in her ſleep, yet ſhe turned herſelf ſometimes, and every motion of that kind more diſordered her robe, and diſplayed ſome new charm.——Few, indeed, if any, were at laſt concealed from my eager penetration; and my ſoul quite overwhelmed with ſo many objects of delight, loſt itſelf in rapture——all its faculties were for ſome time ſuſpended—I had no power to *think*——I only *felt* I loved; and without being able to forſee or dread the conſequences of ſo unavailing a paſſion, I became entirely abandoned to it.

O thou moſt beauteous of all beauties, cried I, thou canſt not be a mortal—— Such heavenly graces never were the portion

tion of earth; nor canſt thou even be of an aërial nature, becauſe I well perceive thou haſt a ſubſtance; but whatever thou art, vouchſafe I beſeech thee to receive the adoration of a faithful ſoul, who never will worſhip aught but thee. O! prefer not to mine the vile deſires of fleſh and blood—Zeïnis! divine Zeïnis! humanity cannot merit thee, becauſe it is impoſſible that any can reſemble thee.

Some minutes paſſed in ſuch rhapſodies, and perhaps more would have elapſed in the ſame manner, if Zeïnis had not moved her head, and laid her mouth almoſt cloſe to the cuſhion of the Sopha; my ſoul was tranſported at ſo favourable a poſition, it immediately took wing, and ſeated itſelf on the corner of that happy pillow, and mingled with her breath.

O what were then my extaſies!——how did my ſoul ſwim in a boundleſs ocean of incomprehenſible delight!—How was it all diſſolved and loſt in the immenſity of bliſs!

bliſs!—But why do I attempt to give your majeſty, any idea of what I felt; no words are able to deſcribe intellectual enjoyment—we muſt be entirely diveſted of our earthly part, and become all ſpirit before we can be capable even of conceiving it.

The ſoul but imperfectly diſplays itſelf through the organs of the body. A thouſand obſtructions render half its emotions imperceptible, and thoſe that eſcape from their impriſonment are ſo much weakened, ſo deprived of their native fire and energy, that they afford us but faint glimpſes of what they really are when freed from the incumbrances of matter.

This is evident, by what we ſometimes feel when a powerful paſſion, endeavouring to force the barriers which oppoſeit, diffuſes itſelf through all the veins, enflames the blood, throbs in the pulſe, ſhakes our whole frame, and vainly ſtruggling to find vent, throws us at length into a languor, which while it laſts, is little different from diſſolution,

lution, and is the real cauſe of all that ſuſpenſion of all our faculties, which we never fail to experience in an exceſs of pleaſure.

Such is our fate, that the ſoul, always unquiet in the midſt of the higheſt felicities, aims ſtill at ſomething farther, and is impatient for more than it can find. Mine, ſeated on the mouth of Zeïnis, wallowing in pleaſure, ſought for greater ſtill—it tried, in vain, alas, to glide gently into that lovely object; retained in its priſon by the ſevere decrees of Brama, all its efforts could not procure deliverance. Yet ſtriving ſtill, the ardour of its deſires immediately kindled thoſe of Zeïnis. I no ſooner perceived the impreſſion I had made on her, than I redoubled my attacks—*my* ſoul launched itſelf with augmented vigour; the ſweet diſorder of the charming maid added to my impatience and my rapture.—She ſighed—I catched the flying breath, and gave her in exchange, all of mine that deſtiny permitted——She uttered ſome words, but

broken and inarticulate—an amiable bluſh diffuſed itſelf over all her face—*her* boſom heaved—*her* arms were ſpread wide, but on a ſudden ſunk down, and her whole frame remained as death.—Certain it is, ſhe had experienced in a dream all thoſe joys, which waking ſenſe can know. A ſoft emotion ſucceeded the calm in which ſhe had been abſorbed.—Yes, thou loveſt me! cried ſhe, in the moſt tender accents, then ſighed, breathed ſhort, and ſaid again, O canſt thou doubt, if thou art loved?

More loſt in tranſport even than ſhe, I heard thoſe charming words, but had not power to anſwer, nor was it neceſſary I ſhould. Her ſoul a moment after became no leſs convulſed than my own—it gave itſelf up to extaſy—again ſhe trembled—ſeemed convulſed with pleaſure—Heavens! how beautiful did ſhe appear—how infinitely did this ſweet confuſion become her!

Both our joys were at length interrupted by her awaking, and there remained no more

more of the illuſion that had enchanted her faculties, than that tender languiſhment, to which ſhe had abandoned herſelf with a warmth, that rendered her worthy of the pleaſures ſhe had poſſeſſed. When ſhe opened her eyes, where love himſelf reigned, the glances they darted, appeared ſtill full of the fire that was diffuſed through her veins; ſhe had not yet loſt the impreſſion that my ardours, and her own ſenſibility had made on her ſleeping fancy—O how melting was her every look!—What mortal who had ſeen her thus, but muſt have died through exceſs of tenderneſs and joy!

Zeïnis! cried I, in a rapture, amiable Zeïnis! it is I who have made you happy——it is to the union of your ſoul with mine, that you owe the pleaſures you have enjoyed!—Ah, that I might always give, and you receive them as now, and never be ſuſceptible of any other tranſports, I would for ever be tender, for ever be faithful!—Yes, lovely Zeïnis, if it were poſſible for

me to release my soul from the power of Brama, or that he could forget there ever was such a one existing; eternally attached to thine, for thee alone its immortality would be a blessing, and for thee alone, it would wish to perpetuate its being.—Ah, soul! that I adore, continued I, if I once quit thee, how in the immensity of nature, and the various changes through which perhaps the inexorable Brama may make me pass, shall I be able to recover thee again! —Ah, Brama, if thy supreme power tears me from my charming Zeïnis, mitigate at least my misery, by the dear remembrance of her perfections—let me not lose her all!

While my soul was speaking to Zeïnis in this tender manner, that beauteous maid seemed to be buried in profound meditation; and I began to be alarmed at the tranquillity she appeared in, after so interesting a dream; a dream, which but a moment past, had afforded to both of us so much felicity. Zeïnis, said I, is doubtless accustomed to

the

the pleaſures ſhe is now awaked from—— they gratify her ſenſes, but do not appear to create any wonder in her—ſhe reflects, but enquires not into the cauſe of thoſe emotions, with which ſhe has been ſo agitated; familiarized to all the ſweets of love, and its moſt paſſionate tranſports, I have done no more than recalled to her mind the image of paſt pleaſures. A mortal, more fortunate than I can be, has had the power to kindle in her heart, thoſe latent fires that nature had placed there—— it was his idea, not my ardours that ſet it in a blaze—Alas, the extaſies of love are no ſtrangers to her—the words ſhe uttered in that delightful dream too much confirm it. —In the midſt of all that ſoft confuſion, her whole care ſeemed to be in teſtifying her affection to a lover, who perhaps is accuſtomed to loſe in her embraces all his cares and diſquietude——Ah, Zeïnis !—— Zeïnis ! purſued my tortured ſoul, if it be true you love another; in the ſituation in

which the wrath of Brama has placed me, my fate will become horrible indeed!

My jealous ſpirit was agitated with theſe ideas, when a ſoft knocking at the door gave them an interruption—I liſtened and then looked on Zeïnis, whoſe bluſhes and confuſion augmented my fears—She ran haſtily to a glaſs, and having adjuſted the diſorders of her dreſs, and rendered herſelf in a condition fit to appear, called out to the perſon at the door to come in. Ah, cried I, in a tranſport of grief, this is perhaps the rival I ſo much dread, who is about to preſent himſelf before me—he comes to give in *reality* thoſe pleaſures to Zeïnis, ſhe is juſt riſen from poſſeſſing in *imagination*.—If it be ſo—if he is happy, how miſerable am I!—or even ſhould ſhe be as I at firſt believed——ſhould both as yet be unacquainted with the joys of love, and this charming maid be deſtined for the means of my deliverance, how wretched ſhould I be, in being forced to be ſeparated for ever from her

her after the ſentiments ſhe has inſpired me with.

The experience, however, I had of the people of Agra, rendered the fear of being obliged to quit Zeïnis, of ſhort continuance; it being little probable, that at the age of fifteen, about which ſhe appeared to be, ſhe had ſtill preſerved that which by being yielded up on me, could alone initiate me into another ſpecies. And dreadful as it was to be witneſs of a rival's bliſs, and as a Sopha compelled to contribute to my own perdition, I preferred even *that* to the torment of ſeeing her no more.

I had ſcarce time for this reflection, when the door being opened, a young Indian of a moſt beautiful form, and richly habited, came into the room: the more worthy he ſeemed of being loved, the more he excited my averſion. The ſight of him encreaſed the diſorder of Zeïnis; the tendereſt paſſion mixed with a certain modeſt fear, ſeemed to combat in her eyes, while ſhe looked

on him without having power to ſpeak. He appeared no leſs confuſed and agitated; but the timidity and reſpect with which he approached her, made me judge he loved her with an exceſs of fondneſs, but had not yet received the reward of his affection. In ſpite of his extreme youth, for he ſeemed to me not much older than Zeïnis, I began to flatter myſelf that this was not his firſt flame; and that in this adventure I ſhould meet only with that mortification which I found I was beſt able to ſupport.

"Ah, Phéléas!" ſaid Zeïnis to him with an emotion, which ſhe in vain laboured to conceal, "wherefore come you here?——"What is it you ſeek?——Yourſelf, my "angel," cried he, falling on his knees, "had I not reaſon to hope I ſhould find "you here?——Did you not promiſe "yeſterday that I ſhould have an oppor-"tunity of entertaining you without "witneſſes?" "O, expect not," replied ſhe haſtily, "that I will keep my

"word

"word——Let us go, I am determined "not to ſtay with you in this cabinet." "For what reaſon, Zeïnis," reſumed he, "ſhould you deny me the happineſs of "being for a few moments alone with "you?—Can you ſo ſoon repent of the firſt "favour you ever granted me?" "But," cried ſhe, growing ſtill more diſconcerted, "cannot I hear you in another place?— "If you love me as you pretend to do, you "will not perſiſt in aſking me a thing that "I cannot grant without repugnance."

Phéléas made no anſwer to theſe words, but ſeizing one of her beautiful hands, kiſſed it with all the ardour I had ever been capable of expreſſing. Zeïnis looked on him with eyes full of the moſt tender languiſhment—The dream in which the preſſures of her lover had rendered her ſo weak, retained ſtill ſome influence over her waking mind—The memory of her late tranſport returned—ſhe ſighed—ſhe bluſhed——the ſoft impulſe inſenſibly increaſed upon her,

and deſires, to which ſhe had hitherto been a ſtranger, thrilled in her veins—

Unexperienced as Phéléas was in womankind, his paſſion for Zeïnis rendered him not only attentive to all her motions, but alſo enabled him to make true conjectures on their meaning—He ſaw enough to convince him he was not indifferent to her, and that now more than ever ſhe regarded him with pleaſure. The charming maid, altogether artleſs, ſincere by nature, and by cuſtom, knew not how to diſguiſe her thoughts, and if ſhe did not tell Phéléas all ſhe felt in his favour, it was only becauſe a certain ſhamefacedneſs reſtrained her—— that very ſhamefacedneſs however diſcovered every thing he wiſhed to know, ſince it ſhewed a conſciouſneſs of ſomething more in his favour than ſhe had power to utter.

Theſe kind of looks may indeed be practiſed by coquets, and thoſe who would impoſe on their lovers by a pretended virtue. But in Zeïnis they were the effect of an innocence,

nocence, ſo perfect that it even was dangerous to her virtue, becauſe while ſhe feared to yield to her paſſion, ſhe knew not in what manner ſhe ſhould go about to repel it.

Notwithſtanding the delight ſhe could not hinder herſelf from taking, in ſeeing Pheleas at her feet, ſhe intreated him to riſe. But far from complying with her requeſt, he preſſed more cloſely to her, and graſped her knees with tranſports ſo tender, and at the ſame time ſo violent, accompanied with expreſſions no leſs affecting, that Zeinis now half reſigned to the force of his and her own wiſhes, ſighed, and cried to him, "let us go hence I conjure you—I "muſt not—dare not ſee you thus." "Ah, "why?" replied he; "if I am ſo happy as "to have made any impreſſion on your "heart, what have you to fear from a lo"ver who adores you, a lover, who even "without knowing the meaning of his "ſweet ſubjection, was almoſt from his "birth devoted to your charms——a lover

"who never has been touched with any "other; and who wiſhes not to live but "for you alone—O! Zeïnis!—Zeïnis!" —added he, burſting into a flood of tears, "behold! and pity the condition to which "you have reduced me!"

In ſpeaking theſe words he fixed his weeping eyes upon her face. And quite overcome by his grief, compaſſion finiſhed in the gentle ſoul of Zeïnis what love had begun. "Ah! cruel Phéléas," ſaid ſhe, with a voice interrupted by ſighs, "have I de- "ſerved you ſhould reproach me?—— "What proofs can I give you of my ten- "derneſs, if after all you have received, you "ſtill can doubt it?"—"If you loved me," anſwered he, "you would not forget that "we are alone together, and far from en- "deavouring to deprive me of the plea- "ſure of entertaining you, would have no "other fear, than that ſome impertinent "intruder might interrupt our felicity." "Alas!" cried ſhe, with the utmoſt ſimplicity,

ſimplicity, "who told you I had any "other?"

At theſe words Phéléas haſtily quitted the poſture he had been in, and ran immediately to make faſt the door. In his return he met Zeïnis, who ſeeing what he was about, had riſen from her ſeat in order to prevent him; but he took her in his arms, and in ſpite of the reſiſtance ſhe made, obliged her to ſit down upon me, where he alſo placed himſelf as near to her as poſſible.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX. *the Laſt.*

I Know not if Zeïnis imagined that when the door was ſhut, it would be altogether unavailing for her to make any reſiſtance, or that ceaſing to fear being ſurprized, ſhe ceaſed to fear at all. But when ſeated thus by Phéléas, ſhe bluſhed leſs at the liberty he took, than ſhe had done at thoſe ſhe apprehended he would take—Before he aſked any thing of her, ſhe beſought him in a voice interrupted with ſighs, to demand no more of her than ſhe ought to grant—— The air with which ſhe ſpoke, and looked, was more tender than determined, and neither diſmayed nor reſtrained the impatient Phéléas. On the contrary, taking the advantage his ſituation gave him, he catched her in his arms with an eagerneſs that Zeïnis, in beginning to perceive what ſhe had to fear, at the ſame time in ſpite of herſelf partook of her lover's tranſports.

All

All melted as she was in soft desire, she endeavoured to disengage herself from the arms of Phéléas, but it was done in such a manner as might make him easily perceive she wished not to be released—Her efforts were indeed so faint, that to render them ineffectual, there needed little strength. He looked on her for some time without being able to speak. And Zeïnis finding her tenderness to encrease, and fearing she should at last be wholly overcome by it, begged of him to let her go. But alas! the very tone in which she spoke, contradicted the purport of her words; and a more experienced lover would have considered her denial as a grant.

But the young and unpractised Phéléas durst not interpret in that manner. "Will "you then never make me happy?" cried he. "Ah!" replied she unthinkingly, "you are but too much so; and before you "came, have had all the advantage of me "you could wish."

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The more obſcure theſe words ſeemed to him, the more he found it neceſſary to deſire an explanation——He preſſed her for a long time to unfold the myſtery they contained, but ſhe was now convinced ſhe had already ſaid too much, and held out againſt his entreaties, with more reſolution than I at firſt expected from her. His tender complaints however prevailed in the end; and the reluctance ſhe had to ſpeak any farther on that ſubject, vaniſhed by degrees. "If I ſhould tell you," ſaid ſhe, with a trembling voice, "I fear you would "abuſe my confidence." He then ſwore to her, that he would not; but with ſuch tranſports, as inſtead of diſſipating her apprehenſions, might have aſſured her he would not have the power to keep his promiſe.—Too little miſtreſs of herſelf, however, to make this reflection, or too little ſkilled in mankind to be ſenſible of the effect of what ſhe was about to reveal, ſhe at laſt confeſſed to him, that being in a ſlumber, the moment

ment before he came in, ſhe had ſeen him in a dream, and felt a rapture which before ſhe never had the leaſt notion of. "Was "I in your arms?" cried he, interrupting her, and preſſing her ſtrenuouſly between his. "Yes," replied ſhe, looking on him with eyes ſwimming in languour. "Ah! then," rejoined he more enflamed, "you loved me in *idea* more than you do "in my *real perſon*." "That," ſaid ſhe, "would be impoſſible.—I could not love "you more, but it is certain I was leſs a- "ſhamed to tell you ſo"—"But what more?" demanded he.——"O! aſk me not," replied ſhe, bluſhing—"I cannot enter into "particulars; but you were more happy "than I wiſh you ſhould ever be, and I "more frail than I hope you will attempt "to make me."

Phéléas could not retain the burning impatience of his deſires at theſe words—— They rouzed ideas in him, which he muſt have been leſs, or much more than man to withſtand;

withſtand; and encouraged by the confeſſion made to him by the lovely maid, and too ſenſible of all the influence he had on her, he put his mouth cloſe to her's, and preſſed her lips with a warmth which ſhe but feebly ſtrove to avoid, and ſeemed not to be greatly offended at. This more emboldening the eager youth, he carried his temerity ſo far, that ſhe thought ſhe ought not to pardon what he did. "Ah, Phéleas!" cried ſhe; "Is this the effect of "all the promiſes you have made? and are "you ſo little fearful of offending me?"

Notwithſtanding the violence of that paſſion with which he was inſpired, the air that Zeïnis now aſſumed, and the real anger that ſhe teſtified, ſtruck him with an awe which would not ſuffer him to proceed—He thought he ought not to ſtrive for a victory which he could not gain without incurring the diſpleaſure of her he loved, and which by the reſiſtance ſhe now made, was alſo become extremely doubtful; ſo that either through

through an excess of love or timidity, he gave over his attempts, and withdrawing himself from her with a dejected air, "no "charming Zeïnis," said he, "how cruel "soever you are, I will no more expose "myself to your anger—If I were truly "dear to you, you would not refuse mak- "ing me happy. But although from this "moment I shall despair of ever rendering "you sensible of my affection, I shall ne- "vertheless always love you with the same "tenderness."

He had no sooner uttered these words than he went out of the cabinet, without waiting to hear what reply Zeïnis would make, or even turning his eyes upon her. His departure, and in that abrupt fashion, struck his mistress to the soul. And equally afraid and ashamed to call him back, she burst into a flood of tears—For about a minute she remained with her head reclined upon me, but growing restless, and full of anxiety to know what was become of her lover,

lover, ſhe roſe and was proceeding to the door to ſee if he were gone or not, when brought back by his tenderneſs ſhe met him juſt at the entrance—She bluſhed at ſeeing him again, and moſt cruelly agitated between her love and fear, ſhe threw herſelf upon me with a deep ſigh.—He flew to her in an inſtant, fell at her feet, and taking one of her hands, bathed it with his tears, not daring to kiſs it.—"Ah, riſe!" cried ſhe; hiding her face with her handkerchief. "No, Zeïnis," ſaid he; "here "at your feet I will attend my doom—"But you weep," continued he, lifting up his eyes, "Heavens! is it the unhappy Phé-"léas who has occaſioned theſe tears?"

The tender Zeïnis at theſe words preſſed his hand, and turned towards him eyes, which ſhone through her tears with all the fires of love and ſoft deſire. He ſaw no leſs plainly than myſelf what her thoughts were in that moment; and riſing from the poſture he was in, catched her again in his

arms

arms—"Heavens!" cried he; "is it poſ-"ſible that Zeïnis has pardoned me"—She anſwered with ſighs more expreſſive than the moſt emphatic words, and Phéléas eaſily read in her every look and motion, what it was ſhe would have ſaid, if ſhe had not been reſtrained by ſhame, therefore he aſked her no farther queſtions, but endeavoured to procure on her mouth that conſent which ſhe ſeemed hitherto to have refuſed him.

In that moment I heard no other ſound from either of this tranſported pair, than the faint murmurings of ſome half-ſtifled ſighs——The happy Phéléas breathing out his raptures on thoſe charming lips, where my ſpirit had ſo lately taſted the extremeſt joy.——But why do I recall ſo cruel a remembrance?—Zeïnis folded in her lover's arms, tender wiſhes combating with the remains of modeſty, rendered her, if poſſible, more adorable than ever I had ſeen her—Quite loſt in extaſy, and forgetfulneſs, either of themſelves,

themſelves, or what further was requiſite to ſatisfy the demands of the paſſion they were inſpired with, they ſeemed to breathe out their whole ſouls upon each others lips, and lay entranced and motionleſs through exceſs of bliſs.

"All this," ſaid the ſultan, "did not "give you much pleaſure: is it not true? "—What in the name of wonder could "you think of yourſelf to become amorous "when you were without a body?—Sure "there never was ſo inconceivable a folly; "for in good faith there is no knowing "how far the fancy might have carried "you—Do you underſtand me?—You "ſee I can argue with good ſenſe ſome-"times."

"It was not, moſt mighty emperor," replied Amanzei, "till after my paſſion was "too well eſtabliſhed, that I perceived the "mortifications it was to occaſion me. In "this caſe as in many others it frequently "happens, that the reflections I made upon

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"it came too late." "I am heartily sor-
"ry for your misfortune," resumed the sultan, "for I liked very well to hear you "were on the mouth of that maid you have "been talking of; and it is a vexation to "me that you were driven from your "place."

While Zeïnis had resisted Phéléas, continued Amanzei, I flattered myself that nothing would be able to overcome her; and when I found that she became more sensible of his transports, I even believed that the natural modesty and timidity of her youth, would have protected her from falling entirely into that weakness which must render me miserable. But when I heard her recount her dream, which I had hoped was wholly owing to me, and perceived by what she said, that it was to the image of Phéléas, and not to my transports, that she had been indebted for the pleasure she had received, I must confess I saw but little hope of escaping the fate I so much feared.

feared. Leſs delicate however than I ought to have been, it was ſome conſolation to me that I partook in the happineſs of my rival. Beſides, whatſoever he ſaid to Zeïnis of his paſſion, and the aſſurances he gave her that he never knew another flame, it appeared impoſſible to me, that at the age of fifteen or ſixteen years, he ſhould not at leaſt have had a certain curioſity which would have hindered my ſpirit from being delivered from a captivity which I had for ſo long a time regretted, but which I now preferred to the moſt glorious poſt Brama could have placed me in.—All deſpair as I was at the weakneſs of Zeïnis, I attended to the conſequences with leſs grief, being perſuaded that though it might triumph over her, I ſhould not be obliged to quit her.

Howmuch ſoever I repined at the tender lethargy in which the lovely pair were plunged, and which but for an inſtant they revived from, to fall into again, I felt at the ſame time a kind of gloomy ſatisfaction, becauſe

because it retarded at least the consummation of my rival's wishes; and though it but too well proved to what an excess they were sensible of their mutual happiness, I ardently prayed to Brama for the continuance of it—Fruitless invocation! I had been alas too criminal, too unworthy of the divine favour, for two souls so innocent and so worthy of felicity to be sacrificed to my repose.

Pheleas, after having languished a few minutes on the bosom of Zeïnis, at length recovered; and agitated by new desires, which the kindness his mistress had testified rendered more vehement, looked on her with eyes inflamed, and almost starting from their spheres—The charming maid unable to behold the fierceness of his glances, inclined her head a little to one side, with a sigh expressing however more of love than of fear—"What," cried he, "doest thou "fly my regards? Ah! rather turn on me

"thy lovely eyes, and read in mine the "paſſion thou haſt inſpired."

Kiſſes and more ſtrenuous embraces ſucceeded theſe words, Zeïnis again, but very faintly, attempted to repel his preſſures. But whether ſhe fancied ſhe had long enough reſiſted, or whether ſhe deceived herſelf, and yielded while ſhe believed ſhe reſiſted, is uncertain; though it is not ſo, that Phéléas immediately found himſelf almoſt as much maſter as he could wiſh.

Though theſe laſt reſignations diſſolved and threw her into a ſtate little different from that in which ſhe had been in her dream, yet on her recovery ſhe repented that ſhe had given ſo great a looſe to her inclination; and once more, alas! for the laſt time, endeavoured to free herſelf from the arms of Phéléas; which he perceiving, redoubled his efforts to detain her. "Ah, "Zeïnis! cruel Zeïnis!" cried he; "in "the dream you told me of, you feared not

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"to make me bleſt; why are your waking "thoughts leſs kind?"—"Phéléas, repeat "it not," replied ſhe; "that fatal dream "has given you more than you ought ever "to have expected, or much leſs I to have "granted—and—" continued ſhe, ſighing, "if you ſhould obtain yet more, it is "by that alone I am betrayed."

"Think, great Sir," purſued Amanzei, "how ſevere a mortification I endured, in "being told it was to me alone, my rival "owed his happineſs."—"But," rejoined ſhe, "you ought methinks to be ſatisfied "with your victory thus far; for you can- "not without offending me beyond for- "giveneſs, proſecute it any farther——I "have already too much proved my tender- "neſs, and the ſenſibility I have of your "affection; do not, O! do not abuſe it."

"Ah, Zeïnis!" cried the impetuous Phéléas, "if thou didſt truly love me, thou "wouldſt leſs fear to tell me ſo; or at leaſt, "wouldſt dwell more upon the tender theme

"—far from delivering thyself to me with "reserve, thou wouldst abandon thyself to "all my desires—thou wouldst think even "*that* were insufficient, and endeavour to "*excel* me, if possible in, love.—Come," continued he, rushing violently upon her, with a resolution, which if souls could die, had infallibly killed me with excess of grief, "come, and complete my happiness."

"Ah, Phéléas!" said Zeïnis in a trembling voice, "think thou art about to ruin "me—alas, hast thou not sworn an ever-"lasting respect!——is it thus that thou "wouldst prove it—Believe not I will ever "pardon, ever believe thee more."

Not all the tears, entreaties, or menaces of Zeïnis, could now over-awe the too much emboldened Phéléas. Although there was only a thin gauze robe between them, and he had already discovered but too many of her beauties, yet less satisfied with contemplating those he had beheld, than burning with impatience to explore those which yet

remained concealed, he tore off the veil which the modeſty of Zeïnis had but feebly defended, and the whole lovely maid ſtood now expoſed to view—Gods! what ſaid he not in the wildneſs of extacy;—but I muſt leave it to your majeſty's imagination here, my ſoul, too much overwhelmed, retained not the memory of his incoherent tranſports.

Shame, however, ſtill combated with love in the heart and eyes of Zeïnis, the one was for refuſing every thing to this dear intruder, the other for leaving him nothing farther to aſk——ſhe durſt not look upon him, yet yielded to his careſſes—ſhe denied one thing to permit others more eſſential—concealed one of her beauties, to lay open another—ſhe repulſed, and at the ſame time invited him—She would and ſhe would not——was by turns aſhamed of her facility and her reluctance—She was angry with him, but feared to make him ſo with her—Prejudice, which ſometimes tri-

umphs both over love and nature, was ſacrificed in her with ſuch reſerve and caution, that it ſeemed not to be overcome, and ſure never did the tender paſſion obtain a conqueſt more difficult!

Wearied out at length, and all her forces weakened with a conflict ſo unequal, the charming Zeïnis yielded to the deſires her beloved Phéléas had excited, and which had ſupported but impatiently, pleaſures, which irritated without ſatisfying.

Unable to endure the ſight of a felicity, which rendered me ſo miſerable, and beginning to dread from ſome emotions that diſcovered the little experience of Phéléas, that the completion of his bliſs, would drive my ſpirit for ever from Zeïnis, I would have quitted for a moment the Sopha, and ſo eluded the decree of Brama; not all the torments of my jealous rage, being half ſo inſupportable as the thoughts of being obliged to loſe the ſight of that adored maid. But, alas! all my efforts were vain. The

some power which commanded me to rest there, rendered me wholly unable to obey; and I was constrained to wait, though in the utmost despair and agony, the decisions of my fate.

Phéléas—dreadful moment, the remembrance of which will never be erased from my soul!—Phéléas, the same Phéléas, may it please your majesty, deaf to all but the dictates of his passion, and master by the tender compliance of Zeïnis of all the charms I adored, prepared himself for the consummation of his happiness. Zeïnis now readily yielded to his transports, and if any new obstacles interposed, they retarded, but did not diminish their mutual felicity. The beauteous eyes of Zeïnis, let fall some tears; but when her mouth was about to utter any complaint, a rising tenderness checked the half-formed words, and permitted her only to breathe forth gentle sighs, that rather fanned than checked the fires of passion. Phéléas the author of the woes she seemed to murmur

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at, was not more *hated*—Zeïnis, of whom Phéléas complained, was not less tenderly *beloved*. In fine, a sudden shriek she gave, with a joy that I saw sparkle in the eyes of Phéléas, made known to me at once my misfortune and deliverance. My soul full of love and grief, quitted the darling Sopha, to receive the orders of the invincible Brama, and assume new chains.

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"What, is this all?" said the sultan, "either you were a very little time a Sopha, or you saw but few things while "you were one. It would be very disagreeable to your majesty," answered Amanzei, "if I should recount every thing "I was witness of, during the time my "spirit was compelled to take up its residence in a Sopha. And it was not my "design to relate all that I had seen, but "what I had seen that I thought might "be entertaining." "Though the things "you have related," said the sultaness,

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"are more agreeable than those you "have suppressed, as I believe; (for it "is impossible to compare them) you "will always be reproached for having in- "troduced only some characters, while all "were in your power; and for having vo- "luntarily confined a subject, which of it- "self is so extensive." "I should have "been to blame indeed, Madam," replied Amanzei, "had all the characters been "proper to have been represented, or had "they had any thing remarkable in them; "or if I could have recounted all I saw, "without being obliged to expose common "objects to your eyes, and becoming too "prolific on a matter, which with how "great variety soever treated, would have "been tiresome, by a continual repetition "and unavoidable length."

"Well," said the sultan, "if one was "to consider very deeply on this matter, "I believe we should find he was in the "right. But I had rather think he was

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"in the wrong, than give myself the "trouble to examine into it. Ah, grand-"mother!" continued he sighing, "it "was not in this manner, you told your "tales."

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